



#AimHighSucceedBeHappy

Intimate Care at West Meadows

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is:

- To safeguard the rights and promote the best interests of the children.
- To ensure children are treated with sensitivity and respect, and in such a way that their experience of intimate care is a positive one.
- To safeguard adults required to operate in sensitive situations.
- To raise awareness and provide a clear procedure for intimate care.
- To inform parents/carers in how intimate care is administered.
- To ensure parents/carers are consulted in the intimate care of their children.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Policy should be followed with any issues relating to safeguarding of pupils. Designated officers should be informed of any safeguarding issues.

Definition

Intimate care is one of the following:

- Supporting a pupil with dressing/undressing.
- Providing comfort or support for a distressed pupil.
- Assisting a pupil requiring medical care, who is not able to carry this out unaided.
- Cleaning a pupil who has soiled him/herself, has vomited or feels unwell.

Supporting dressing/undressing

- Sometimes it will be necessary for staff to aid a child in getting dressed or undressed particularly in Early Years.
- Staff will always encourage children to attempt undressing and dressing unaided.

Soiling

Intimate care for soiling should only be given to a child after the parents have given permission for staff to clean and change the child.

Parents who have children in the Nursery may sign a permission form so that the Early Years staff can clean and change their child in the event of the child soiling themselves or requiring a toileting program (Appendix 1).

If a parent does not give consent, the school will contact the parents or other emergency contact giving specific details about the necessity for cleaning the child. If the parents/carers or emergency contact can come within a few minutes, the child is comforted and kept away from the other children to preserve dignity until the parent arrives.

Children are not left on their own whilst waiting for a parent to arrive, an adult will stay with them, giving comfort and reassurance. The child will be always dressed and never left partially clothed.

If a parent/carer or emergency contact cannot attend, the school seeks to gain verbal consent from parents/carers for staff to clean and change the child. This permission will be sought on each occasion that the child soils him or herself.

If the parents and emergency contacts cannot be contacted the Head Teacher will be consulted.

If put in an impossible situation where the child is at risk, staff will act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid the child. When touching a child, staff should always be aware of the possibility of invading a child's privacy and will respect the child's wishes and feelings.

If a child needs to be cleaned, staff will make sure that:

- Protective gloves are worn.
- The procedure is discussed in a friendly and reassuring way with the child throughout the process.
- The child is encouraged to care for him/herself as far as possible.
- Physical contact is kept to the minimum possible to carry out the necessary cleaning.
- Privacy is given appropriate to the child's age and the situation.
- All spills of vomit, blood or excrement are wiped up and disposed of appropriately.
- Any soiling is bagged and placed in the nappy bin.
- Soiled clothing is put in a plastic bag, unwashed, and sent home with the child.

Hygiene

All staff must be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection, must follow basic hygiene procedures and have access to protective, disposable gloves.

Protection for staff

Members of staff need to have regard to the danger of allegations being made against them and take precautions to avoid this risk. These should include:

- Two member of staff to change a child if soiled and taken to the changing bed/toilet
- Gaining a verbal agreement from another member of staff that the action being taken is necessary.
- Allow the child, wherever possible, to express a preference to choose his/her carer and encourage them to say if they find a carer to be unacceptable.
- Allow the child a choice in the sequence of care.
- Be aware of and responsive to the child's reactions.

Additional guidance and supporting documents are attached to support the intimate care at West Meadows primary school.

Sandelle Jones - February 2023