



Intimate Care Policy

2023-2024

Pear Tree Mead Academy

Part of the Passmores Co-operative Learning Community

Intimate Care Policy

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.

Principles

It is essential that every child is treated as an individual and that care is given as gently and as sensitively as possible. As far as possible, the child should be allowed to exercise choice and should be encouraged to have a positive image of his/her own body. It is important for staff to bear in mind how they would feel in the child's position. Given the right approach, intimate care can provide opportunities to teach children about the value of their own bodies, to develop their safety skills and to enhance their self-esteem. Parents and staff should be aware that matters concerning intimate care will be dealt with confidentially and sensitively and that the young persons' right to privacy and dignity is maintained at all times.

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 (and during swimming)

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. Children may need help drying themselves correctly during getting changed after swimming. Staff will always encourage children to do this unaided and only assist if needed.

Intimate Care needed for children over EY age.

If a child is still needing regular support for dressing / undressing or toileting needs once they are in Key Stage 1 or 2 then a meeting will be held with parents and their further needs discussed. Parents will sign a new intimate care permission slip for this support to be given. Parents will also be supported through receiving medical support for these needs if necessary. These needs will be reviewed regularly.

Providing comfort or support

Children may seek physical comfort from staff (particularly children in Preschool, Nursery and Reception). Where children require physical support, staff need to be aware that physical contact must be kept to a minimum and be child initiated. When comforting a child or giving reassurance, the member of staff's hands should always be seen and a child should not be positioned close to a member of staff's body which could be regarded as intimate. If physical contact is deemed to be appropriate staff must provide care which is suitable to the age, gender and situation of the child.

If a child touches a member of staff in a way that makes him/her feel uncomfortable this can be gently but firmly discouraged in a way which communicates that the touch, rather than the child, is unacceptable. Staff can use a "supportive hug" to gently place the child beside them to give comfort.

Medical procedures (see First Aid and Administering Medicines inc Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy)

If it is necessary for a child to receive medicine or intimate care creams (eg. Eczema creams) during the school day parents must fill out a permission form from the school office and discuss their child's needs with a member of staff before the school agrees to administer medicines or medical care. It must be made clear to parents that staff administration of medicines is voluntary.

Any member of staff giving medicine to a pupil should check:

- The pupil's Name
- Written instructions provided by parents or doctor
- Prescribed dose
- Expiry date

Particular attention should be paid to the safe storage, handling and disposal of medicines. The Head Teacher has prime responsibility for the safe management of medicines kept at school. This duty derives from the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations

2020 (COSHH). School staff are also responsible for making sure that anyone in school is safe.

Medicines should generally be kept in a secure place, not accessible to pupils but arrangements must be in place to ensure that any medication that a pupil might need in an emergency is readily available.

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 Early Years 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

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 parent/carer or emergency contact is able to 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 dressed at all times and never left partially clothed.

If a parent/carer or emergency contact cannot attend, the school seeks to gain verbal consent from parent/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.

If children are in nappies, then the parent/carer must provide nappies, wipes and nappy bags.

If a child is prone to soiling/accidents, then the parent/carer must provide a bag of spare clothes.

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 to the situation
- All spills of vomit, blood or excrement are wiped up and flushed down the toilet
- Any soiling that can be is flushed down the toilet
- Soiled clothing is put in a plastic bag, unwashed, and sent home with the child

Nappy changing in the Early Years

No child is excluded from participating in our setting who may, for any reason, not yet be toilet trained and who may still be wearing nappies or equivalent. We work with parents towards toilet training, unless there are medical or other developmental reasons why this may not be appropriate at the time. We hold a yearly toilet training workshop for Early Years.

We provide nappy changing facilities and exercise good hygiene practices in order to accommodate children who are not yet toilet trained. We see toilet training as a self-care skill that children have the opportunity to learn with the full support and non-judgmental concern of adults.

Procedures

- Our key persons have a list of children in their care who are in nappies or 'pull-ups'; and change nappies where necessary.
- *For group provision:* Our key persons undertake changing children in their key groups; back up key persons change them if the key person is absent.
- Our changing area is warm, with a safe area to lay children and no bright lights shining down in their eyes.
- Each child has their own bag provided by parents with their nappies or pull ups, nappy bags and changing wipes.
- Staff put on latex free gloves and aprons before changing starts and the areas are prepared.
- All our staff are familiar with our hygiene procedures and carry these out when changing nappies. Staff never turn their back on a child or leave them unattended whilst they are on the changing mat.

- We are gentle when changing; we avoid pulling faces and making negative comments about ‘nappy contents’.
- We do not make inappropriate comments about children’s genitals when changing their nappies.
- In addition, we ensure that nappy changing is relaxed and a time to promote independence in young children.
- We encourage children to take an interest in using the toilet and to watch supervised You Tube clips about germs, etc.
- We encourage children to wash their hands using soap. They should be allowed time for some play as they explore the water and the soap.
- Older children access the toilet when they have the need to and are encouraged to be independent.
- We cannot dispose of nappies and pull ups hygienically so all nappies will be sent home in a bag.
- We have a ‘duty of care’ towards children’s personal needs. We will not leave children in soiled nappies and will change them as soon as it is noticed.

Hygiene

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

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:

- Gaining a verbal agreement from another member of staff that the action being taken is necessary
- Be aware of and responsive to the child’s reactions

Restraint (See also behaviour policy)

There may be occasions where it is necessary for staff to restrain children physically to prevent them from inflicting damage on either themselves, others or property.

In such cases only the minimum force necessary should be used for the minimum length of time required for the child to regain self-control.

In all cases of restraint the incident must be recorded. Under no circumstances would it be permissible to use physical force as a form of punishment, to modify behaviour, or to make a pupil comply with an instruction. Physical force of this nature can, and is likely to, constitute as a criminal offence.

Safeguards for children

There is an obligation on local authorities to ensure that staff who have substantial, unsupervised access to children undergo police checks. All staff at Pear Tree Mead Academy are DBS checked on application and cannot undertake tasks within school until all checks are completed satisfactorily. The DBS’s aim is to help organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors by identifying candidates who may be unsuitable to work with children or other vulnerable members of society. Personal and professional references are also required and unsuitable candidates are not permitted to work within the school.

All those working with children should be closely supervised throughout a probationary period and should only be allowed unsupervised access to children once this has been completed to their supervisor's satisfaction.

It is not appropriate for volunteers to carry out intimate care procedures. Students and parent helpers should only do so under the supervision of a trained member of staff, following consultation with the student's college supervisors.



Intimate Care Permission

KS1 / 2

Child's Name _____

Child's Class _____

Date _____

I give consent for my child to be supported to get changed and cleaned by the school staff if they wet / soil themselves whilst in the care of Pear Tree Mead Academy.

Signed _____ Parent / Carer

Print Name _____

Review Date _____