

Chiswick & Bedford Park Preparatory School

Intimate Care Policy

General

At Chiswick & Bedford Park Preparatory School ('the School') it is our intention to develop independence in each child, however there will be occasions when help is required. Our intimate care policy has been developed to safeguard children and staff. The policy takes into account the recommendations from the '*Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who Work with Children and Young People*'

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 of care of their children

Definition

Intimate care may be defined as any activity that is required to meet the personal needs of an individual child on a regular basis or during a one-off incident.

Such activities can include:

- Feeding
- Oral care
- Washing
- Changing clothes
- Toileting
- First aid and medical assistance
- Supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care
- 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

Our policy is based on every child's right to:

- be safe;
- personal privacy;
- be valued as an individual;
- be treated with dignity and respect;
- be involved and consulted in their own intimate care to the best of their abilities;
- express their views on their own intimate care and to have such views taken into account;
- have levels of intimate care that are appropriate and consistent.

Parental Responsibilities

It is generally expected that most children will be toilet trained and out of nappies before they begin school. Parents have a responsibility to advise the school of any known intimate care needs relating to their child and their permission is sought to allow the provision of intimate care.

Where a child has a medical condition which requires regular intimate care parents may be requested to provide school with wipes and appropriate spare clothing.

Only in an emergency would staff undertake any aspect of intimate care that has not been agreed by the parents.

School Responsibilities

All staff working with children have obtained an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS). Students and volunteers are not required to undertake any intimate care duties.

Only those members of staff who are familiar with the intimate care policy and other safeguarding policies of the School are involved in the intimate care of children.

Anticipated intimate care arrangements which are required on a regular basis are agreed between the school and parents, and when appropriate and possible, by the child. In such cases consent forms are signed and stored centrally.

Parents will be provided with a copy of our intimate care policy on request.

If a staff member has concerns about a colleague's intimate care practice he or she must report this to the DSL.

Reporting any intimate care measures

Where a child has soiled him or herself, this should be recorded on CPOMS and the parents always notified. Soiled clothes must be sent home in a plastic bag.

Guidelines for Good Practice

All children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect. These guidelines are designed to safeguard children and staff. They apply to every member of staff involved with the intimate care of children.

Young children and children with special educational needs can be especially vulnerable. Staff involved with their intimate care need to be particularly sensitive to their individual needs. Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children, taking into account their developmental changes, level of understanding and ability to communicate.

It is important to bear in mind that some forms of assistance can be open to misinterpretation. Adhering to the guidelines of good practice should safeguard both children and staff.

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many adults might need to be present when a child needs help with regular intimate care. Usual practice will follow: ***one child cared for by one adult and another adult remain close by.***

Staff must only carry out activities that they understand and feel confident and comfortable with. If in doubt, they must seek further assistance. Confident, self-assured children who feel their bodies belong to them are less vulnerable to sexual abuse. The approach taken with intimate care can convey lots of messages to a child about their body worth.

If any unusual markings, discolouration or swellings are observed this must be reported immediately to the DSL.

If a child is accidentally hurt during intimate care or misunderstands or misinterprets something, staff must reassure the child, ensure their safety and report the incident to the DSL. Report and record any unusual emotional or behavioural response by the child on CPOMS.

Hygiene

All staff must be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection and should ensure the use of appropriate protective equipment when necessary, for example, protective, disposable latex/vinyl gloves and apron.

Working with children of the opposite sex

There is positive value in both male and female staff being involved with children. Ideally, every child should have the choice for intimate care but the current ratio of female to male staff means that assistance will be given by a female at the current time due to there not being any male members of staff.

Supporting dressing/undressing

Sometimes it will be necessary for staff to aid a child in getting dressed or undressed particularly in Early Years and Key Stage One, eg swimming lessons. Staff will always encourage children to attempt undressing and dressing unaided.

Providing comfort or support

Children may seek physical comfort from staff (particularly children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One. 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.

Appendix for nursery provision

Procedures for changing a child wearing a nappy:

*One member of staff (Key Worker when possible) will change the child.

*Updated and reviewed September
2023*

- *The child will be changed in a separate toilet area.
- *Staff will use the aprons, gloves, blue roll paper, nappy sacks and baby wipes.
- *The nappy change will be recorded on a daily basis

Procedures for prevention of infection:

- *Staff will wear disposable gloves and aprons whilst changing.
- *Blue roll paper will be placed on top of the changing mat.
- *The changing mat and area will be cleaned after use with antibacterial wipes.
- *Hot water and hand wash is available to wash hands immediately after a child has been changed.
- *Paper towels are available for drying hands.
- *Antibacterial hand gel is available in the changing area.