

Feltham Hill Infant & Nursery School

Intimate Care Policy

November 2019

The school takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in its care.

Meeting a pupil's intimate care needs is one aspect of safeguarding.

*Prepared by: DH & HT: Nov 2019
Discussed with: AH
Shared with: Governors Shared space
Reviewed and updated: November 2021*

The school is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner. These adults are in a position of great trust.

The school recognises that there is a need to treat all children, whatever their age, gender, disability, religion or ethnicity, with respect when intimate care is given. The child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Staff will work in close partnership with parents/carers to share information and provide continuity of care.

Definition

Intimate care can be defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas which most people usually carry out themselves but some children are unable to do because of their young age, physical difficulties or other special needs. It also includes supervision of children involved in intimate self-care.

Guidelines for Intimate Care

- Staff who provide intimate care are trained in child protection and first aid and are made aware of best practice regarding health and safety awareness, infection control including the need to wear disposable gloves and aprons where appropriate.
- There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, use of visual symbols etc) to discuss their needs and preferences.
- If the child does not have appropriate levels of understanding, permission will be sought by parents/carers before starting an intimate procedure.
- All children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for themselves as possible.
- Children who require regular assistance with intimate care will have had this agreed by parents/carers and relevant staff.
- Parents/carers will be informed the same day if their child has needed help with meeting intimate care needs.
- Every child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many staff members need to be present when a child needs help with intimate care.
- Adults who assist children one to one will be employees of the school or long-term agency staff and all are DBS checked.
- It is not always practical for two members of staff to assist with an intimate procedure and also this does not take account of the child's privacy. However, a member of staff will inform another adult when they are going to assist a child with intimate care.
- The religious views and cultural values of families will be taken into account, particularly, as they might affect certain practices or determine the gender of the carer.
- All staff will follow the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy including the need for confidentiality. Sensitive information will be shared only with those who need to know.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:



Child Protection & Safeguarding
Health and Safety
Children with medical difficulties
SEND