

Feltham Hill Infant & Nursery School

Intimate Care Policy

February 2024

Intimate care involves carrying out procedures which most people can do themselves.

Intimate care must be carried out properly by trained staff.

*Prepared by: AH February 2024
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Shared with: Governors: governors' hub
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Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Intimate care is carried out properly by staff, in line with any agreed plans.
- The dignity, rights and wellbeing of children are safeguarded.
- Pupils who require intimate care are not discriminated against, in line with the Equality Act 2010.
- Parents/carers are assured that staff are knowledgeable about intimate care and that the needs of their children are taken into account
- Staff carrying out intimate care work do so within guidelines (i.e. health and safety, manual handling, safeguarding protocols awareness) that protect themselves and the pupils involved.

-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 will 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 which some children are unable to do because of their young age, physical difficulties or other special needs.

It also includes the supervision of children involved in intimate self-care.

Guidelines for Intimate Care

Staff who provide intimate care are trained in child protection and are made aware of best practice regarding health and safety awareness and 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.

-Children who require regular assistance with intimate care will have had this agreed by parents/carers and relevant staff.

-Permission for regular intimate care for children with additional needs is included in school's admission form.

-All children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and ability.

-Staff will encourage each child to do as much for themselves, as possible.

- Every child's right to privacy will be respected.
- There will always be 2 adults present when a child needs intimate care.
- An adult will supervise children managing their own self-care.
- Adults who assist children one to one will be employees of the school or long-term agency staff and all are DBS checked.
- 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.
- If a child has soiled themselves, as an irregular occurrence then parents/carers will be called to change their child.
- The school will meet intimate care needs of children who need regular assistance due to additional needs.

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

- Child Protection & Safeguarding including allegations against staff
- Health and Safety
- Staff code of conduct discipline and grievance procedures
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Special educational needs & disability (SEND)