



St. Mary's CE Infant School

Intimate Care Policy

This policy represents the agreed principles for intimate care throughout St Mary's Infant School.

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to:

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

Principles

Every child must be treated as an individual and care must be 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. Given the right approach, intimate care can provide opportunities to teach children about the value of their own bodies, to develop their self-care 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 child's right to privacy and dignity is maintained at all times.

Definition

Intimate care is defined by St Mary's school as any of the following

- supporting a child with dressing/undressing;
- providing comfort or support for a distressed child'
- assisting a child requiring medical care, who is not able to carry this out unaided;
- cleaning a child 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 the Foundation Stage. Staff will always encourage children to attempt undressing and dressing unaided.

Providing Comfort or Support

Children may seek physical comfort from staff. If physical contact is deemed to be appropriate staff must provide care which is suitable to the age, gender and situation of the child.

Cleaning a child who has soiled or wet themselves or vomited.

When providing intimate care for a child who has soiled or wet themselves or vomited, 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;
- procedures are 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 flushed down the toilet;
- any soiling that can be is flushed down the toilet;
- soiled clothing is put unwashed in a plastic bag, and sent home with the child.

Hygiene

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

Protection for Staff

Members of staff need to be aware of 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;
- allow the child a choice in the sequence of care;
- be aware of and responsive to the child's reactions.

Safeguards for Children

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Safeguarding Policy.