



THE HERMITAGE and THE OAKTREE SCHOOLS

Intimate Care Policy

Person/s responsible: Behaviour & Welfare Leaders
Date adopted: November 2009
Date of last review: Autumn Term 2022
Date of next review: Autumn Term 2025

Aims

- To secure a whole school approach which ensures that the needs of the children are paramount and their rights and privacy are respected.
- To recognise 'intimate care' includes attending to toilet accidents / medical conditions causing soiling / menstruation soiling / supervising toileting habits
- To ensure children are able to express choice and have a positive image of their own body.
- To ensure children feel safe and secure.
- To ensure children are respected and valued as individuals.
- To ensure intimate care procedures minimise any risks associated with intimate care.
- To ensure the procedures are non-discriminatory and that parents of children with disabilities are not asked to do more than their peers who do not have children with disabilities.

Procedures

All staff carrying out intimate care of children in the school must be aware and follow the procedures and advice outlined below:

- Any adult involved in intimate care should be a member of the school staff, not a volunteer or parent helper.
- Ensure they are aware of the child protection policy and procedures in place within the school. If concerned about a child's actions or comments whilst carrying out intimate care, staff should record this on CPOMS (the school's recording platform for safeguarding concerns) and discuss with the school's DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Children who need changing during lesson time or lunch and break times due to a toileting accident and/or the child is not toilet trained, he/she should be changed in an appropriate area to allow for privacy and/or supervision.
- Children still undergoing toilet training should have all necessary materials (e.g. nappies, wipes, change of clothing etc.) provided by the parents/carers, after discussion with school about appropriateness/need.

- Use the nature of the accident/incident and the knowledge of the child to make a judgement on how many adults should be involved in intimate care. In some cases, it can be advisable to have two adults in attendance. This could be in cases where the child is identified as vulnerable, is on the Child Protection register or where knowledge of the child or family indicates there could be difficulties and/or allegations could be made.
- Consider the dignity of the child and allow them to make a decision on how they are assisted. Ask the following if relevant:
 - ❖ Would you like some help?
 - ❖ Would you like me to help you?
 - ❖ Would you like me to come with you and wait outside the door in case you need any help?

NB: If staff suspect soiling and it is denied by the child, the matter should be referred to the parent for advice – usually a telephone call by an appropriate member of staff. Forcing the child to ‘prove otherwise’ is unnecessary and unwise. However, so is allowing children to sit in soiled clothing. If needed, an executive decision by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher will be made to send the child home or request parents to collect and deal with themselves.

A child’s refusal to allow themselves to be changed will result in an immediate telephone call to inform parents. Parents can choose to visit the school to change the child or take them home to change – then return to school.

- Ensure another member of staff, preferably the class teacher if during lesson time, knows that you are withdrawing the child and why.
- Speak to the child by name and explain what is happening. Ensure privacy appropriate to the child’s age and situation.
- If children can change themselves, wait outside the door with the younger children and reassure them you are there. If the child is mature enough, offer the option of going alone without an adult. Professional judgement should be used.
- Be aware and responsive to the child’s reactions if assisting with intimate care.
- Ensure any religious and cultural values are taken into account.
- Ensure spare clothing is readily available.
- If washing is required, use a disposable cloth. Encourage the child to wash any intimate parts of the body with wipes - check these are readily available.
- Any injuries needing intimate care should be dealt with sensitively. The Executive Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher may be called in such circumstances and parents may be requested to attend as appropriate.
- Gloves should be used in assisting in any form of intimate care (kept with wipes).
- Dispose of any used items appropriately. Nappy sacks are provided and should be disposed of in the appropriate bin.
- If necessary, clean and disinfect any soiled surfaces once the child has returned to the classroom (appropriate cleaning materials can be obtained from the caretaker’s room).
- Inform the caretaker if any cleaning has occurred.
- Record all incidents of intimate care on the record sheet and send a note to parents if the child has been assisted in any way.
- Confidentiality should be maintained at all times between child, school and parent/carer.
- Staff with concerns over any aspect of intimate care should discuss these with the Executive Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

Regular Occurrences

- If the child has an ongoing problem that requires intimate care prevention, the Inclusion Leader should be informed so arrangements can be made with the parent/carer for long term resolution of the difficulties and a plan drawn up.
- Children with special medical needs, or who attend our nursery and are not yet toilet trained, who need changing on a daily basis will have a separate record where the date and time is noted and the signature of the staff member is kept on record. Parents of these children will be aware of the procedure and will not receive a note every day.

Parents and carers

- If the child has been assisted with intimate care, parents will be informed via a standard letter. Alternatively, a telephone call may be more appropriate.
- Parents will be made aware of the procedures and will be able to view the policy at any time.

Associated Documents

- Intimate Care Record (Appendix 1)
- Letter for parents/carers re permission to provide regular intimate care (Appendix 2)
- Letter to inform parents/carers of an intimate care issue (Appendix 3)

APPENDIX 2



Permission to provide regular intimate care

Name of child

Date of birth

Parent/Carer's name

Address

.....

Contact telephone number

I understand that:

- I give permission to the school to provide appropriate intimate care support to my child e.g. changing soiled clothing, washing, showering and toileting
- I will advise the school of any medical complaint my child may have which affects issues of intimate care

Parent/Carer's signature.....

Parent/Carer's name

Relationship to child.....

Date.....

APPENDIX 3



Date:

Re: Informing parent/carer of an intimate care issue

Name of child:

Class:

This is a courtesy letter to inform you that your child had a toileting accident today at school. The matter was dealt with swiftly and sensitively by:

..... (name of staff member) in accordance with our Intimate Care Policy.

We have returned the clothing for washing. Please wash and return any items borrowed from the school, at your earliest convenience.