

INTIMATE CARE POLICY



Featherstone All Saints C of E Academy

This Church of England Trust aim to serve its community by providing an excellent education for pupils of all abilities and backgrounds in the context of Christian belief and practice.

It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and requires the valuing of other faiths.

It promotes Christian values and spiritual development through the experience it offers to all its pupils,

These values are implicit in this policy.

Accepted by governors: May 2024 Date for review: May 2025
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Introduction

Featherstone All Saints C of E Academy is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

Definition

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out invasive procedures. In most cases such care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene and the cleaning of equipment associated with the process as part of a staff member's duty of care. In the cases of specific procedures only staff suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure (e.g. the administration of rectal diazepam).

Management of children with intimate care needs

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires intimate care is treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Where possible, intimate care needs of the child will be carried out by one adult, in the presence of another adult.

Staff supporting intimate care needs of children will do so in line with the intimate care procedure to ensure consistency.

Staff will be sensitive and responsive to the child's reactions. They will promote the child's self image and check with them that the care being given is acceptable to them.

Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and if appropriate recorded on the child's care plan. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

The Protection of Children

The school child protection procedures and the West Yorkshire Consortium Interagency Safeguarding Procedures will be adhered to.

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. Marks, bruise, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the appropriate manager/designated person for child protection.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed.

Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure that most children carry out for themselves but which some are unable to do due to physical disability, special educational needs associated with learning difficulties, medical needs or needs arising from the child's stage of development.

Care may involve help with drinking, eating, dressing and toileting. In most cases intimate care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene. In the case of a specific procedure only a person suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure.

Children wearing nappies

Schools may have concerns regarding Child Protection issues when they are asked by parents to admit a child who is wearing nappies.

Child protection need not present an issue. It is good practice to provide information for parents of the policy and practice in the school. Such information should include a simple agreement form for parents to sign outlining who will be responsible, within the school, for changing the child and when and where this will be carried out. This agreement allows the school and the parents to be aware of all the issues surrounding the task from the outset.

Some schools as part of their good practice have introduced a note book to record who changes a child, how often this task is carried out. Examples of such good practice provide reassurance for parents that systems are in place and that schools have implemented procedures for staff to follow.

Changing facilities

When children need to be changed in school this procedure should not necessarily cause the school a great deal of extra expense. The dignity and privacy of the child should be paramount. Consideration should be given to the

sighting of this area from a health and safety aspect. The area should not be situated in a thoroughfare. An area which can be made private by the use of a screen is acceptable.

Equipment provision

Schools often ask for clarification regarding who is responsible for providing equipment when children require changing.

Parents have a role to play when their child is wearing nappies. The parent should provide nappies, disposable bags, wipes, changing mats etc. and parents should be made aware of this responsibility. Schools are responsible for providing gloves, plastic aprons, a bin and liners to dispose of any waste.

Health & Safety

Staff should always wear an apron and gloves when dealing with a child who is bleeding or soiled or when changing a soiled nappy. Nappy changing areas should be cleaned with anti bacterial spray prior to and after changing.

Principles relating to Every Child Matters

- Every child has the right to feel safe and secure
- Every child has the right to be treated as an individual
- Every child has the right to remain healthy
- Every child has the right to privacy, dignity and a professional approach from all staff when meeting his or her needs
- Every child has the right to be accepted for who they are, without regard to age, gender, ability, race, culture or beliefs.