

St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary and Nursery School



EYFS Intimate Care Policy

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Introduction

Definition of Intimate Care:

'Intimate care is any assistance that involves touching a child while carrying out a procedure that most children are able to do for themselves, but some are unable to manage without help. This may involve help with eating, drinking, dressing, and matters of personal hygiene such as washing and toileting.'

This policy will provide clear guidelines which are designed to promote good practice and safeguard children as well as practitioners.

Examples of intimate care tasks include:

- Support with dressing and undressing of underwear
- Changing nappies or pads
- Helping a child use the toilet
- Helping a child with washing intimate parts of their body
- Cleaning a child who has soiled themselves
- A change of clothes as a result of water or messy play, sickness or the weather

Pupils in our early years setting have access to go to the toilet as and when they need to and are reminded at regular times during the day to use the toilet and wash their hands.

It is generally expected that most children will be toilet trained and out of nappies before starting school or nursery, however, we recognise that this is not always possible and children will have different levels of development in self-care. There will be times when children will have accidents and need changing and there are also children with disabilities or medical conditions who require assistance for personal and intimate care needs.

The role of the staff

All children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect.

All staff involved with intimate care of pupils need to be sensitive to individual needs.

The requirement by law with regard to staffing levels for intimate care are that the member of staff helping the child must notify another member of staff when they are going alone to assist a pupil, and must ensure another member of staff is in the vicinity and visible or audible. To further protect the privacy and dignity of the child, staff should notify others discreetly that they are taking the child for personal care. If a situation arises that causes concern to staff helping with personal care, they should call the second member of staff if necessary and report and record the incident. Any concerns about the way in which the child is behaving during the care procedure or any comments they've made should be recorded and discussed with senior staff immediately.

All EYFS staff has access to warm water, baby wipes, disposable gloves and plastic bags.

If a child soils themselves during school time, one member of the EYFS staff will help the child:

- Remove their soiled clothes
- Clean skin (this usually includes bottom, genitalia, legs, feet)
- Dress in the child's own clothes or those provided by the school

- Wrap soiled clothes in plastic bags and give to parents to take home

If a child needs a nappy change during school time, one member of the EYFS staff will take the child to the designated area (changing bed in the Nursery building) to change their nappy, ensuring they clean their skin and dispose of the dirty nappy appropriately.

At all times the member of staff pays attention to the level of distress and comfort of the child. If the child is ill the member of staff will telephone the office to get in contact with the parent/carer.

In the event a child is reluctant and finally refuses, the parent/carer will be contacted immediately.

Our intention is that the child will never be left in soiled clothing, but as soon as a member of staff is aware of the situation, they will clean the child.

Safeguarding

- All staff will have had a DBS check
- All staff will follow the school's procedures for intimate care
- All staff will record anything of significance
- All staff will encourage independence but where this is not possible will ask the child's permission before undressing and helping to change them
- Another member of staff will always be in contactable distance
- All staff will have up-to-date safeguarding training
- All staff will notify the Senior Leadership Team as soon as possible if they notice anything unusual or the child says anything that worries them

Health and Safety

- All staff must wear disposable gloves when helping with intimate care needs
- Dirty nappies must be disposed of appropriately
- Soiled underwear and clothes must be put in a plastic bag and given to the parents/carers when the child is picked up
- Toilet areas must be kept clean and tidy at all times
- Hot water and soap must be available at all times

Regular checks will be done to ensure that all equipment is ready, clean and available.

Useful websites:

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workingtogether-to-safeguard-children>

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keepingchildren-safe-in-education-- 2](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keepingchildren-safe-in-education--2)

NSPCC

www.nspcc.org.uk