



Alexandra School

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INTIMATE CARE POLICY

Status	
Review Cycle	
Date written/last review	
Date of next review	

ALEXANDRA SCHOOL INTIMATE CARE POLICY

Introduction

Intimate care is defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions and personal hygiene, which may also require direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the genitals. Examples include care associated with continence, menstrual management, assisted feeding or help with washing.

This policy should be read alongside the school's Continence Guidance, Supporting Pupils with a Medical Condition, Child Protection and SEND policies.

Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible. All staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times.

Alexandra School delivers a full personal safety curriculum, as part of the PSHE programme, to all children as appropriate to their developmental level and degree of understanding. This work is shared with parents who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages within the home.

Parents or carers will be consulted as to the intimate care needs of their child and have a responsibility to inform the school of any changes needed to continue the most appropriate care for their child (see Continence Guidance, Appendix A).

Principles of Intimate Care

- Every child has the right to be safe.
- Every child has the right to personal privacy.
- Every child has the right to be valued as an individual.
- Every child has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Every child has the right to be involved and consulted in their own intimate care to the best of their abilities.
- Every child has the right to express their views on their own intimate care and to have their views taken into account.
- Every child has the right to have levels of intimate care that are as consistent as possible.

Guidelines

All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance. Intimate care will take place in the hygiene room or in nursery.

Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so, including Child Protection and moving and handling (if needed), and are fully aware of best practice. Equipment is provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from the Occupational Health team as required.

Parents/carers should provide the school with spare wipes, pads or a change of clothes as needed. Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes.

There is careful communication with each child and parent/carer to discuss the child's needs and preferences. The intention is that the child is aware of each procedure carried out and the reasons for it.

Children are supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their individual capabilities. Individual care plans will be completed for particular children.

Each child has specific members of staff involved in their intimate care arrangements although sometimes staffing issues may make it necessary for a different member of staff to support the child. In all cases this staff member will also be trained in the school's practices.

Child protection

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Enhanced DBS checks are carried out on all staff employed in the school. Whenever school staff are involved in intimate care procedures, two members of staff must be present in the hygiene room. The person responsible for changing the child should always be visible by the second member of staff who will assist as necessary.

All staff must remain highly vigilant for any signs of abuse or improper practice, as they would for all activities carried out in our setting.

All staff should follow the safeguarding procedures in place if they notice a child is unduly distressed and/or has unexplained marks or injuries.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the school's safeguarding procedures will be followed.