

Intimate Care Policy

Aberford C of E Primary School



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1. Definitions

Aberford CE Primary School defines ‘intimate care’, based on those within the document “Intimate care and toileting; Guidance for early years settings and schools” 2014, Surrey Council.

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene, which demand direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, the sexual parts of the body.

Intimate care tasks include:

- Dressing and undressing (underwear)
- Helping someone use the toilet
- Washing intimate parts of the body

The majority of intimate care at Aberford CE Primary School involves toileting support in EYFS and KS1. Any intimate care that falls beyond this (e.g. changing colostomy or ileostomy bags, managing catheters, stomas or other appliances) will be in any individual child’s Education and Health Care Plan.

Cultural and diversity influences may affect what is deemed ‘intimate’ to a child and particular regard should be taken of social, ethnic and cultural perspectives.

2. Introduction

It is essential that care is given gently and sensitively and that every child is treated as an individual and with respect. By its definition, intimate care may involve touching the private parts of the child’s body, increasing the vulnerability of the child. The good practice guidelines, below, ensure the safety of the children involved and staff undertaking intimate care procedures.

3. Good Practice Guidelines

As far as possible, the child should be allowed to exercise choice and should be encouraged to have a positive image of her/his own body. These principles of intimate care can be put into practice by:

- allowing the child, wherever possible, to choose who provides their intimate care
- encouraging the child to say if they find a member of staff not acceptable

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- ensuring staff get to know the child well beforehand in other contexts and be familiar with her/his moods and methods of communication
- allowing the child a choice in the sequence of care
- ensuring privacy appropriate to the child's age and the situation
- allowing the child to care for her/himself as far as possible
- being aware of and responsive to the child's reactions
- ensuring staff speak to the child personally by name so that he/she is aware of being the focus of the activity
- for older children (eight years and above) it is preferable if the member of staff is the same gender as the young person
- appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and supplies supplied for the adult (e.g. gloves, wipes, bags)
- any concerns that have arisen during or after the intimate care of a child need to be recorded immediately and in line with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Intimate care can provide opportunities to teach children about the value of their own bodies, to develop their personal safety skills and to enhance their self esteem. Wherever children can learn to assist in carrying out aspects of intimate care they should be encouraged to do so.

4. Vulnerability to abuse

How Aberford CE Primary School is mitigating increased risk of vulnerability of abuse:

- Good Practice Guidelines followed.
- Should a child disclose abuse or harm as a result of intimate care this should be responded to in line with the school's child protection procedures.
- Any allegations against a member of staff should be considered in line with the school's procedures.
- Clear escalation routes should a practitioner, parent/carer or child believe that intimate care is not being undertaken in line with the school's intimate care policy, the individual care plan or with dignity and respect.