



Barlston CE (VC) First School



Intimate Care and Toileting Policy

“Enabling our whole school community to flourish and let their light shine whilst preparing them for their role as gentle and humble agents for change in the world we share”

For the purpose of this policy:

‘Barlston first school’ is inclusive of that and Little Dormouse Nursery.

Introduction

At Barlston First School we aim to meet the needs of all our children and promote their welfare. We assist children with intimate care needs where necessary and ensure that the children are treated with courtesy, dignity and respect at all times.

Intimate care is defined as care involving washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas, which some children may need support with because of their young age, physical difficulties or other special needs.

When children have intimate care needs, class teachers or teaching assistants take responsibility to provide their care. We address such issues on an individual basis.

Due to the developmental stages of the children that we work with, we support them with their personal care and remind them to go to the toilet and take care of their own hygiene to develop their independence. For children in the Foundation Stage, we are responsible for the children’s personal care skills as an essential part of Personal Development in order for them to be able to access the rest of the curriculum.

Children may enter the nursery in nappies, and when they do we support them with dignity and sensitivity. Additionally, children may have accidents from time to time. Parents are asked to supply a bag of clean clothes for their children to be kept in a bag on the child’s peg. If frequent accidents occur, these are taken into the toilets for the child to change into. School also keeps a supply of spare clothes available if necessary and when these are used parents are asked to return them as soon as possible.

If a child has needed help with intimate care, this is treated as confidential and shared with parents sensitively at the end of the day.

Staff Training

All staff are knowledgeable about intimate/personal care and are aware of their responsibilities and the relevant policies including the Child Protection and Health and Safety policies. All staff in school are fully DBS checked and where necessary will have received the relevant training for specific

intimate care needs. They have full knowledge of the child's care plan, and follow these in a professional manner.

Intimate/Personal Care Plans

If a child required regular assistance with intimate care, staff meet with the parents and any health professionals involved to discuss the child's needs and produce an agreed intimate/personal care plan. The plans are regularly monitored and reviewed.

Practice

The designated practitioner(s) who delivers the care, who in most cases will be the child's key person, forms a strong and trusting relationship with the child. They ensure that it is a positive, safe and comfortable experience. Whilst the care is being given, it is a time for conversation and the promotion of personal development.

The child will be encouraged to undertake as much of the procedure for themselves as possible, including dressing/undressing, washing intimate areas and other hygiene tasks.

Every effort is made to ensure that privacy and modesty is maintained during intimate care. Two people will always be present to ensure safeguarding, but in some circumstances more staff members may be required.

If a child expresses anxiety or unhappiness with their intimate care provision, the issue will be addressed immediately with the child, the parents and any relevant staff so the child's needs can be met in an appropriate manner.

We work closely with parents to identify and meet the child's needs and to monitor and review care plans. Cultural and religious values are respected when planning for care.

If a child has had 3 (three) soiling accidents during one school day (including wraparound), parents or guardians will be contacted to temporarily collect the child and take home to shower/ thoroughly clean. This is to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of the child. Arrangements will be made to ensure no learning is missed during this process.

We also work closely with outside agencies to utilize their knowledge and experience.

Procedure for changing/ disposal of nappies, aprons and other waste

The procedure for changing nappies, wet or soiled clothing is as follows:

- Clean, disposable gloves are used every time a child is changed, with hands washed afterwards.
- A second member of staff will be present if a member of staff needs to touch an intimate area of a child.
- Disposable wipes and creams are applied to the skin if required.
- Nappies, gloves, aprons (if necessary), wipes and other waste is then bagged and placed in the appropriate yellow bin, which is emptied regularly by an outside agency.

- Wet or soiled clothing will be bagged up and given to parents at pick-up time. Where clothing is heavily soiled, this will be disposed off in the yellow bin.

Policy agreed by The Governing Body: February 2025

Policy to be next reviewed: February 2026



Miss Alison Dando
Chair of Governors
Date: February 2025