

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL

INTIMATE CARE POLICY



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INTIMATE CARE POLICY

An intimate care policy is required for several purposes of providing intimate care. In Little Sycamore, nursery and very young children this may be in relation to nappy changing. However, for older children this may be around medical conditions, issues regarding soiling or urinating and the menstrual cycle of girls. Regarding intimate care, the support required must be a proportionate decision in relation to the care that is required and **it is not statutory to have two members of staff to change a child.**

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care may be defined as any activity required to meet the personal care needs of each individual child. Parents/carers must advise the school or setting of the intimate care needs of their child, and staff have a responsibility to work in partnership with children and parents.

Intimate care can include:

- Feeding
- Washing
- Dressing/undressing
- Toileting
- Menstrual Care
- Treatments such as enemas, suppositories, enteral feeds
- Catheter and stoma care
- Supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care

Providing Intimate care

In providing intimate care, the safety, well-being and rights of the child must be considered. This includes:

- Their right to be safe and have privacy.
- Their right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Their right to express their views and contribute to their own self-care.

Key person

In most circumstances for younger children, they will have a named key person and deputy key worker who should be responsible for the majority of the care (including intimate care). However, all staff should be appropriately trained to be able to conduct this aspect of their role. Children should be given some choice of preference in the assigning of key person where it is appropriate to do so. **Students will not carry out intimate care.**

All staff

All staff working with children will have the appropriate level of enhanced DBS check and will have gone through safer recruitment procedures to ensure their suitability to work with children. Clear processes and guidance in intimate care should be highlighted specifically to staff upon their Induction into the school/setting. New staff should be given the opportunity to discuss any queries or uncertainties they may have in relation to the policy.

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Any staff member should be prepared to deal with intimate care circumstances at any point in their job role. They should know and understand the process and policy before undertaking the activity.

Students, work experience and visitors should not be responsible for the intimate care of children in the setting.

Medical conditions

Any child with a medical condition should have a care plan in school, outlining the condition, the need for support and intervention and the process for undertaking the intimate care. This may require additional training for staff. The parents/carers and the child must be part of this process and plan and every one should be in agreement with how the intimate care will be provided. Medical conditions just as any other reason for intimate care must not be allowed to disguise any risk. For example, any cause for concern when providing intimate care must be reported and recorded and not automatically attributed to the medical condition.

Soiling/Urinating incidents

Any child who may have a soiling/urinating incident should be supported consistently and not made to feel embarrassed or ashamed for the incident. Where possible they should be involved in as much responsibility for providing their own self-care and supported by a member of staff. Children should be supported with spare changes of clothing or advised to bring them to school with them in the event of such an incident.

Regular incidents of this nature from the same child, should be monitored, recorded and reviewed for a medical condition or a safeguarding concern.

Menstrual cycles

Any child who may start menstruating or have an incident during their menstrual cycle should be supported consistently and not made to feel embarrassed or ashamed for the incident. Again, where possible they should be involved in as much responsibility for providing their own self-care and supported by a member of staff. Oakdene engages in the Red Box project so children should be signposted to where spare menstrual products are available. Children are invited to use the disabled toilet to enable them to dispose of sanitary products and also advised to bring additional changes of clothing with them should this be required.

Staff should be vigilant of children particularly in regards to incidents of Female Genital Mutilation which may be masked through menstrual cycle as well as any suspicion of concern of a child bleeding from their genitals which may not be a menstrual cycle. All staff must report concerns directly to the Designated Safeguarding leads.

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General Information

Changing areas should be clear and visible to other staff members. It is usual for one person to undertake intimate care for the rights and privacy of the child; **however, where necessary or where risk is involved this may need to be two members of staff.**

Any changes to the policy or processes involved in nappy changing or intimate care should be made to meet the needs of the individual child or the whole staff and not for the benefit for one individual member of staff.

There need to be sound processes of recording and documenting the intimate care of children in all settings by all staff.

There need to be clear processes for whistleblowing and there should be an open culture of challenge within the setting where appropriate so that staff feel confident to alert/inform senior members of staff to any concerns raised. This ideally should be the Executive Head Teacher or the Head of School.

Parents and carers should be aware of the setting's intimate care policy and they will have signed a form to indicate they are aware of the policy and consent to their child receiving intimate care if needed. Parents and carers should then be clear about who their child's key person is and the processes of intimate care for that setting.

PPE – During any intimate care prior to the pandemic, staff would wear gloves and an apron then sanitise hands afterwards. During the Pandemic this will increase to include the following procedures, sanitising hands prior to the care, wearing a disposable face mask, disposable gloves and disposable apron, then sanitising hands again once disposable PPE has been safely discarded in sealed bags.

Please read this policy in conjunction with your Child Protection Policy.

Rights Respecting Schools

As a Rights Respecting School, we promote Article 16: Your right to privacy. This adheres to our school ethos.

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