

Abbey School

Intimate Care Policy

Rationale

All children at Abbey School & Nursery have the right to be safe and be treated with dignity, respect and privacy when requiring assistance with their personal hygiene and care needs.

This policy sets out clear principles, guidelines and procedures on supporting intimate care.

Abbey School Safeguarding Procedures

This policy supports the safeguarding and welfare requirements of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021 and the Equality Act 2010.

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care is the term used to describe any tasks which involve direct or indirect contact to an intimate personal area. Intimate care tasks may include supporting a child to dress/undress, helping a child use the toilet, changing the clothing of a child who has vomited/wet/soiled themselves, changing a child's underwear or pull-up, cleaning/washing a child's body parts and nappy changing.

Guidelines and Procedures

- Intimate care tasks will be carried out in the toilet areas or nappy changing areas within each nursery unit.
- The member of staff carrying out the intimate care will inform another member of staff before they do so.
- Tasks to be carried out will be explained to the child according to their age, and level of understanding, and wherever possible, their permission sought.
- Children will be encouraged to do as much for themselves as they can, and praise will be given when they achieve a task independently. Children will be changed standing up where appropriate unless nappy changing is undertaken.
- Staff will wear disposable gloves and aprons when handling bodily fluids.
- In the majority of cases, moist wipes will be used to clean a child.
- Soiled materials (gloves, aprons, moist wipes, pull-ups) will be disposed of in designated bins.
- Children will be kept away from any affected area until that area has been cleaned.
- Parents/carers will be informed immediately by telephone if the child is unwell. Otherwise, parents/carers will be informed when they collect their child.
- The privacy and dignity of the child will be respected at all times.
- Children of school age who are not yet continent may require a personalised intimate care plan, to be agreed with parents.

Partnership with Parents/Carers

We will work in partnership with parents/carers and healthcare professionals (e.g. health visitor) to support children in achieving continence.

Safeguarding

The process of assisting with personal care should not raise safeguarding concerns.

All staff carrying out intimate care tasks have a relevant DBS (Disclosure Barring Service) check.

Safeguarding procedures will be adhered to and any concerns about a child will be immediately reported to a designated Child Protection Person as details in the Child Protection Policy.

This policy was written using support materials from ERIC (The Children's Continence Charity), specially the document, 'The Right to Go: A Guide to helping early years settings and schools manage continence'. See www.eric.org.uk for more information.