

Astbury St Mary's C of E Primary School - Intimate Care Policy

Aims

To ensure a whole school approach which ensures that the needs of the children are paramount and their rights and privacy are respected.

To recognise 'intimate care' includes attending to toilet accidents/medical conditions causing soiling/menstruation soiling/supervising toileting habits / disabilities

To ensure children are able to express choice and have a positive image of their own body.

To ensure children feel safe and secure.

To ensure children are respected and valued as individuals.

To ensure intimate care procedures minimise any risks associated with intimate care.

To ensure the procedures are non-discriminatory and that parents of children with disabilities are not asked to do more than their peers who do not have children with disabilities.

Procedures

All staff carrying out intimate care of children in the school must be aware and follow the procedures and advice outlined below:

- Any adult involved in intimate care should be a member of the school staff, not a volunteer or parent helper.
 - All staff must be aware of the child protection policy and procedures in place within the school. If concerned about a child's actions or comments whilst carrying out intimate care, staff should record this on the record of concern – safeguarding form.
 - Children who need changing during lesson time or lunch and break times due to a toileting accident and/or the child is not toilet trained, he/she should be changed in the nearest appropriate toilet or the disabled toilet to allow for privacy and/or supervision.
 - Children still undergoing toilet training should have all necessary materials (e.g. nappies, wipes, change of clothing etc) provided, after discussion with school about appropriateness/need, by the parents
 - Use the nature of the accident/incident and the knowledge of the child to make a judgement on how many adults should be involved in intimate care. In some cases, it can be advisable to have two adults in attendance. This could be in cases where the child is identified as vulnerable, is on the child protection register or where knowledge of the child or family indicates there could be difficulties/allegations could be made.
 - Consider the dignity of the child and allow them to make a decision on how they are assisted.
- Ask the following if relevant:

- _ *Would you like some help?*
- _ *Would you like me to help you?*
- _ *Would you like me to come with you and wait outside the door in case you need any help*

If staff suspect soiling and it is denied by the child the matter should be referred to the parent for advice – usually a telephone call.

Forcing the child to 'prove otherwise' is unnecessary and unwise. However, so is allowing children to sit in soiled clothing. If needed, an executive decision by the Head teacher (HT) will be made to send the child home and for parents to collect and deal with the matter themselves.

_ A child's refusal to allow themselves to be changed will result in an immediate telephone call to inform parents. Parents can choose to visit the school to change the child or take them home to change – then return to school

- Ensure another member of staff, preferably the class teacher if during lesson time, knows that you are withdrawing the child and why.

- Speak to the child by name and explain what is happening. Ensure privacy appropriate to the child's age and situation.
- If children can change themselves, wait outside the door with the younger children and reassure them you are there. If the child is mature enough, offer the option of going alone without an adult. Professional judgement should be used.
- Be aware and responsive to the child's reactions if assisting with intimate care.
- Ensure any religious and cultural values are taken into account.
- Ensure spare clothing is readily available
- If washing is required, use a disposable cloth. Encourage the child to wash any intimate parts of the body with wipes
- Any injuries needing intimate care should be dealt with sensitively. The HT or full first aider should be called in such circumstances and parents may be requested to attend as appropriate.
- Gloves should be used in assisting in any form of intimate care (kept with wipes).
- Dispose of any used items appropriately (double bagged).
- If necessary, clean and disinfect any soiled surfaces once the child has returned to the classroom
- Inform the caretaker if any cleaning has occurred.
- If a child has need of support or reassurance after the incident, an appropriate space should be used.
- Record all incidents of intimate care on the record sheet and send a note to parents if the child has been assisted in any way.
- Confidentiality should be maintained at all times between child, school and parent/carer.
- Staff with concerns over any aspect of intimate care should discuss these with the HT.

Regular Occurrences

If the child has ongoing needs that require intimate care, the HT, should be informed by the child's parents/carers so arrangement can be made with the parent/carer for longer term intimate care. Children with special needs who need intimate care on a daily basis will have a separate record where the date and time is noted and the signature of the staff member is kept on record. Parents of these children will not receive a separate note for every occasion of intimate care.

Parents and carers

If the child has been assisted with intimate care, parents will be informed via a standard letter held in the office. Alternatively, a telephone call may be more appropriate. Parents will be made aware of the policy and will be able to view the policy at any time.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Intimate Care Record

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Informing parents of an intimate care issue for.....

Date	Time	Staff Member(s)	Comments if required

This is a courtesy letter to inform you that your child needed intimate care today at school. The matter was dealt with swiftly and sensitively in accordance with our Intimate Care Policy.

If appropriate, we have returned the clothing for washing. Please wash and return any items borrowed from the school at your earliest convenience.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact your child's teacher.

Yours sincerely

Pip Blythe
Headteacher