

FOX WOOD SCHOOL



INTIMATE CARE POLICY

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These guidelines are designed to promote good practice and therefore safeguard children and practitioners; they apply to everyone involved with the intimate care of children. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the school's Child Protection Policy, Safeguarding Policy and the 'I Matter Code'.

Aims:

- to safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of pupils
- to provide guidance and reassurance to staff whose role includes intimate care
- to assure parents that staff are knowledgeable about personal care and that their individual concerns are considered.

Definition of Intimate Care:

'Care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene, which demands direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, the sexual parts of the body'

Intimate care tasks specifically identified as relevant include:

- dressing and undressing (underwear)
- helping someone use a potty or toilet
- changing nappies
- cleaning / wiping / washing intimate parts of the body.

Definition of Personal Care:

'Although it may involve touching another person, it is less intimate and usually has the function of helping with personal presentation'

Personal care tasks specifically identified as relevant include:

- feeding
- administering oral medication
- hair care
- dressing and undressing (clothing)
- washing non-intimate body parts
- prompting to go to the toilet.

Pupil's intimate care needs cannot be seen in isolation or separated from other aspects of their lives. Encouraging them to participate in their own intimate or personal care should therefore be part of a general approach towards facilitating participation in daily life.

Intimate care can also take substantial amounts of time but should not be rushed. It is essential that every pupil is treated as an individual and that care is given as gently and as sensitively as possible. Pupils should be treated with dignity and respect and given privacy appropriate to their age and situation. During care routines pupils should be talked to about

what is happening to enable them to anticipate, understand and participate in care procedures. The pupils should be encouraged to express choice and to have a positive image of his/her body. They should be confident, self-assured children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to sexual abuse.

Male and female staff can assist pupils with personal and intimate care, all staff should follow school procedure (appendix a) for undertaking intimate care routines with pupils. They should always:

- Wear appropriate PPE
- Dispose of PPE following procedure
- Dispose of waste appropriate to task.

Supply staff can carry out intimate care, after they have been shown where resources are and given at least a verbal overview re: each pupil and their needs.

If during daily care routines unexplained marks or bruises are noticed these should be reported following the schools' safeguarding protocols and procedures.

Supporting documents:

Safeguarding Policy
Child Protection Policy
I Matter Code



Fox Wood School

Intimate Care Procedure

PPE:

This should be relevant to task and may include the following:

- Fluid repellent mask
- Disposable apron
- Disposable gloves

Pupils with individual risk assessments may have additional information contained.

Resources:

- Toilet roll
- Hi-zorb soft wipes
- Skin cleansing mousse

Important information:

- Pupils to be treated with respect as individuals, ensuring dignity is maintained
- Care to be given gently and sensitively
- Talk through the process with pupils
- Encourage pupils to make choices
- Promote confidence and self-help skills.

Process:

Soiled waste should be placed into the bins with yellow bags.
PPE should be disposed of in the general waste bins provided.