



Bathrooming Intimate Care Guidelines

Some pupils may require intimate care for their comfort and dignity.

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out a bathroom procedure to intimate personal areas. In most cases, such care will involve cleaning for hygiene purposes as part of a staff member's duty of care.

The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one, and requires staff to be respectful of the child's needs. The child's dignity will always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control. No child will be supported in a way that causes unnecessary distress or pain.

Southview School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of pupils will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. Our guidance for intimate care aims to provide guidance and reassurance to staff. It safeguards the rights and well-being of pupils, and assures parents/carers that all staff are knowledgeable about intimate care.

Staff who provide intimate care are taught to be aware of best practice, and the need to comply with school policies including:

- Child Protection
- Health and Safety
- Health Care Plans, risk assessments and medical details.

Staff will have regard to confidentiality of this information. Sensitive information about a child will only be shared with those who need to know.

Within Phases, staffs have responsibility for effective organisation of hygiene resources in care rooms. Staffs always wear protective gloves and aprons during intimate care routines, and disinfect changing beds after use. Pupils provide their own intimate care hygienic materials. Apparatus may need to be provided for pupils who need special arrangements following assessment from a physiotherapist/occupational therapist as required.

Staff will be responsive to any apprehensions, discomfort or disapproval shown by a pupil. Photographs, symbols and words will be used as a communication tool with pupils who require this additional support.

Staff will work in partnership with parents to ensure consistency of approach. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staff and equal opportunities legislation. Provision may be amended in the light of individual needs, but we promote each person's right to equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life, including the provision of intimate care.

Staff will be supported and encouraged to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual pupils, taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation. The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy possible, given their age and abilities.

Matters concerning intimate care will not be recorded in the home/school communication diary as it is not a confidential document. Arrangements may be made with parents/carers to report on their children's intimate care.

There will be a high awareness of child protection issues where intimate care is provided. Southview School follow the procedures set out by "Keeping Children Safe in School" – September 2019 and DfES "Safeguarding Children in Education". All staff are trained in Child Protection awareness, and this training is regularly updated. If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, (for example marks, bruises, soreness) she/he will immediately report concerns to the designated person for child protection using the established school procedures.

The monitoring of this policy and its application will be reviewed bi-annually by the Head teacher, Deputy Head teacher, and Personal Assistance Manager

Review November 2024