



Intimate Care Policy

Monksmead Intimate Care

1. Introduction

At Monksmead School we are committed to providing equal opportunities for all, in all aspects of school life, regardless of gender, ability, disability or age, ethnic heritage and special needs.

2. Aims

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out procedures (such as cleaning up a pupil after they have soiled themselves) to intimate personal areas. The school will ensure that adults looking after children, having unsupervised access to children or carrying out specific procedures are suitable to do so. 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 that all staff are respectful of the child's needs. The child's dignity should always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control.

We recognize that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given.

3. Our approach to best practice

Staff will talk through the process and encourage children to be as involved as possible. Any adult changing a child will notify the other staff as to what they are doing.

Where possible one child will normally be catered for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. This should not raise child protection concerns, and there are no regulations that indicate that a second member of staff must be available.

Ideally there will be more than one member of staff known to the child who will take turns in providing care.

4. Protection of children

All children are admitted to school regardless of whether they are still wearing nappies. The procedures that the school will follow if a child accidentally wets or soils him/herself or is sick while on the premises are as follows:

At all times the dignity and privacy of the child will be of paramount concern.

- . consideration must be taken into account for health and safety issues
- . a changing mat will usually be used when a child is being changed. This is the recommended method of changing a child but may not be appropriate for all children
- . sensitivity to where a child is changed/cleaned and safety of the member of staff must be considered
- . staff to wear disposable gloves and aprons whilst dealing with the incident
- . changing area to be cleaned after use
- . hot water and liquid soap to be available to wash hands as soon as the task is completed
- . soiled nappies to be disposed of appropriately
- . every child should have at least one change of clothes at school
- . the school will provide clean underwear/clothes if all the child's spare clothes have been used

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Parents are expected to provide nappies if their child is still wearing them. The parent should also provide disposable bags and wipes. Schools are responsible for providing gloves, plastic aprons and disposing of any waste.

Children with special needs have the same rights to safety and privacy when receiving intimate care.

5. Safeguarding children and adults

To ensure the balance between privacy and safeguarding, steps will be taken, e.g.

- . a door being ajar
- . a window in the door
- . being changed discreetly.

If a child is heavily soiled they may need to be washed or showered and parents would be informed at the end of the session.

In the instance that a child refuses to be changed the school may contact the parents to come in and change their child.

Children in nappies will routinely be changed once per session unless they have soiled themselves or need changing more often.

Schools may also need to consider the possibility of special circumstances arising should a child with complex continence needs be admitted. (To be read in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding policy).

6. Physical contact

There may be occasions when a distressed pupil needs comfort and reassurance such as a parent would give. Judgements will need to take account of the circumstances of a pupil's distress, their age, the extent and cause of the distress.

Staff at Monksmead School work in a 'limited touch' culture so that when physical contact is made with pupils this will be in response to the pupil's needs at the time, will be of limited duration and will be appropriate given their age, stage of development and background.

7. Positive Handling

There may be very rare occasions where it is necessary for staff to restrain children physically to prevent them from inflicting damage on either themselves, others or property. Restraint should be used only as a last resort to ensure the safety of the child. In such cases only the minimum force necessary should be used for the minimum length of time required for the child to regain self-control.

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All parents in EYFS to sign.

Parents/Carers should read this policy and return the slip provided to notify staff that they have read and agreed to the policy.

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I have read the Intimate Care Policy and I understand and agree with the policy.

Name of child

Signature of parent/carer