



Dallimore Primary & Nursery School Intimate Care Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- safeguard the rights and promote the best interests of the children
- ensure children are treated with sensitivity and respect, and in such a way that their experience of intimate care is a positive one
- safeguard adults required to operate in sensitive situations
- raise awareness and provide a clear procedure for intimate care
- inform parents/carers in how intimate care is administered
- ensure parents/carers are consulted in the intimate of care of their children

Principles

It is essential that every child is treated as an individual and that care is given as gently and as sensitively as possible. As far as possible, the child should be allowed to exercise choice and should be encouraged to have a positive image of his/her own body.

It is important for staff to bear in mind how they would feel in the child's position. Given the right approach, intimate care can provide opportunities to teach children about the value of their own bodies, to develop their safety skills and to enhance their self-esteem. Parents and staff should be aware that matters concerning intimate care will be dealt with confidentially and sensitively and that the young persons' right to privacy and dignity is maintained at all times.

Definition

Intimate care is one of the following:

- supporting a pupil with dressing/undressing
- providing comfort or support for a distressed pupil
- assisting a pupil requiring medical care, who is not able to carry this out unaided
- cleaning a pupil who has soiled themselves, has vomited or feels unwell

Supporting dressing/undressing

Sometimes it will be necessary for staff to aid a child in getting dressed or undressed particularly in Early Years and Nursery. Staff will always encourage children to attempt undressing and dressing unaided.

Providing comfort or support

Children may seek physical comfort from staff (particularly children in Nursery and Reception). Where children require physical support, staff need to be aware that physical contact must be kept to a minimum and be child initiated. When comforting a child, or giving

reassurance, the member of staff's hands should always be seen and a child should not be positioned close to a member of staff's body which could be regarded as intimate. If physical contact is deemed to be appropriate staff must provide care which is suitable to the age, gender and situation of the child.

If a child touches a member of staff in a way that makes him/her feel uncomfortable this can be gently but firmly discouraged in a way which communicates that the touch, rather than the child, is unacceptable.

Medical procedures (See Policy on Medicines)

If it is necessary for a child to receive medicine during the school day parents must fill out a permission form and discuss their child's needs with a member of staff before the school agrees to administer medicines or medical care.

Any member of staff giving medicine to a pupil should check:

- The pupil's name
- written instructions provided by parents or doctor
- Prescribed dose
- Expiry date

Particular attention should be paid to the safe storage, handling and disposal of medicines. The Head Teacher has prime responsibility for the safe management of medicines kept at school. This duty derives from the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH). School staff are also responsible for making sure that anyone in school is safe. Medicines should be kept in a secure place, not accessible to pupils but arrangements must be in place to ensure that any medication that a pupil might need in an emergency is readily available.

Nappy Changing

Nappy changing is scheduled twice daily, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. All children present will have their nappies changed during these scheduled times. Should a child require a nappy change outside of the scheduled sessions, this will be attended to promptly as needed.

Intimate care procedures will be carried out by the child's key person wherever possible. A child will never be supported in intimate care routines by an adult who is not familiar to them. The member of staff changing the child will inform another member of staff that they are going to do this. A child will always be consulted before an intimate care routine takes place. This gives the child time to process what is going to happen next. They will never be forced to leave what they are doing.

Staff will use either the designated nappy changing rooms in the Foundation Unit, or the disabled toilet to maintain the child's privacy. These areas are enclosed enough to respect the child's privacy yet are not beyond sight of other staff members. The door of the disabled toilet will remain open during the nappy change. Mobile children can be changed standing up. The child's preference/needs will be considered, together with any assessed risks involved. Staff will wash their hands and wear disposable gloves while changing a child. Soiled nappies, wipes and gloves will be securely wrapped and disposed of appropriately in the designated nappy bin. The changing area will be cleaned with a detergent spray or soap and water. Hot water and soap are available for staff to wash hands as soon as changing is finished. The hand dryer is available to dry hands.

A record of all changes will be kept in a secure space in line with GDPR guidance and parent/ carers have the right to request to see this at any time. Parent/ carers will be notified verbally by the practitioner on the door at collection regarding intimate care that has taken place or if support has been given that falls outside of normal practice for that child. Should staff observe any unusual markings, discoloration or swelling, these will be reported to the DSL immediately.

Soiling

Intimate care for soiling should only be given to a child after the parents have given permission for staff to clean and change the child. Parents who have children in the Foundation Unit may sign a permission form so that the Early Years staff can clean and change their child in the event of the child soiling themselves (Appendix 1).

If a parent does **not** give consent, the school will contact the parents or other emergency contact giving specific details about the necessity for cleaning the child. If the parents/carers or emergency contact is able to come within a few minutes, the child is comforted and kept away from the other children to preserve dignity until the parent arrives. Children are not left on their own whilst waiting for a parent to arrive, an adult will stay with them, giving comfort and reassurance. The child will be dressed at all times and never left partially clothed.

If a parent/carer or emergency contact cannot attend, the school seeks to gain verbal consent from parents/carers for staff to clean and change the child. This permission will be sought on each occasion that the child soils themselves.

If the parents and emergency contacts cannot be contacted the Head Teacher will be consulted. If put in an impossible situation where the child is at risk, staff will act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid the child.

When touching a child, staff should always be aware of the possibility of invading a child's privacy and will respect the child's wishes and feelings.

If a child needs to be cleaned, staff will make sure that:

- protective gloves are worn
- the procedure is discussed in a friendly and reassuring way with the child throughout the process
- the child is encouraged to care for him/herself as far as possible
- physical contact is kept to the minimum possible to carry out the necessary cleaning.
- privacy is given appropriate to the child's age and the situation
- all spills of excrement are wiped up and flushed down the toilet or placed in the nappy bin
- soiled clothing is put in a plastic bag, unwashed, and sent home with the child
- Any bloodied items go into clinical waste bags and in the clinical waste bin.
- Vomit should go in main bins.

Hygiene

All staff must be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection, must follow basic hygiene procedures and have access to protective, disposable gloves.

Protection for staff

Members of staff need to have regard to the danger of allegations being made against them and take precautions to avoid this risk. These should include:

- gaining a verbal agreement from another member of staff that the action being taken is necessary
- allow the child, wherever possible, to express a preference to choose his/her carer and encourage them to say if they find a carer to be unacceptable
- allow the child a choice in the sequence of care
- be aware of and responsive to the child's reactions

Safeguards for children

There is an obligation on local authorities to ensure that staff who have substantial, unsupervised access to children undergo police checks. All staff at Dallimore Primary and Nursery School are DBS checked on application and cannot undertake tasks within school until all checks are completed satisfactorily. The DBS's aim is to help organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors by identifying candidates who may be unsuitable to work with children or other vulnerable members of society. Personal and professional references are also required and unsuitable candidates are not permitted to work within the school.

All those working with children should be closely supervised throughout a probationary period and should only be allowed unsupervised access to children once this has been completed to their supervisor's satisfaction.

It is not appropriate for volunteers to carry out intimate care procedures. Students should only do so under the supervision of a trained member of staff, following consultation with the student's college supervisors.

This Policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier if necessary.

Date of review: March 2024

Review date: March 2027



Dallimore Primary and Nursery School

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PERMISSION FORM FOR THE PROVISION OF CARE

To be completed before starting Early Years

If a child wets or soils themselves while they are in the Foundation Unit it is important that measures are taken to have them changed (and if necessary cleaned) as quickly as possible.

Our Early Years staff are experienced and trained at carrying out this task if you wish them to do so, or if preferred, the school can contact you or other emergency contacts on your child's record who will be contacted to attend without delay.

Dallimore Primary and Nursery School has an Intimate Care Policy which is available to view on our website.

Please complete and return the slip below stating your preference.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Crowther
Headteacher

DALLIMORE PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL **INTIMATE CARE PREFERENCE**

Name of Child _____

Please tick as appropriate

- I give consent for my child to be changed and cleaned by school staff if they wet/soil themselves while in the care of Dallimore Primary & Nursery School

OR

- I do not give my consent for my child to be changed and cleaned if they wet/soil themselves. The school will contact me or other emergency contacts on my child's school record to organise for my child to be cleaned and changed. I understand that in the event that I (or any other emergency contact) cannot be contacted, staff will act appropriately and may need some level of physical contact in order to aid your child.

Name _____ Signed _____

Relationship to child _____ Date _____