

William Penn Intimate Care Policy

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is:

- To safeguard the rights and promote the best interests of the children
- To ensure children are treated with sensitivity and respect, and in such a way that their experience of intimate care is a positive one
- To safeguard adults required to operate in sensitive situations
- To raise awareness and provide a clear procedure for intimate care
- To inform parents/carers in how intimate care is administered
- To ensure parents/carers are consulted in the intimate 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 him/herself, 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 Reception. Staff will always encourage children to attempt undressing and dressing unaided.

Providing Comfort or Support

Children may seek physical comfort from staff. 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

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

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 Headteacher 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 generally 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.

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 Reception, or of an older child who has a particular need or other children in case of exceptional circumstances, are asked to sign a permission form indicating their preferences so that the 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. In cases where consent has not been given previously and 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 him or herself. If the parents and emergency contacts cannot be contacted the Headteacher 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 vomit, blood or excrement are wiped up and flushed down the toilet
- Any soiling that can be, is flushed down the toilet
- Soiled clothing is put in a plastic bag, unwashed, and sent home with the child

Use of Shower

It is appropriate to use the shower when:

- children are soiled either as part of an ongoing medical condition or need or in case of exceptional circumstance
- parents have given signed permission
- If permission has been obtained verbally on a case by case basis

Shower Procedures are as follow:

- Child to use disposable sponge/flannel and shower gel/soap which is Ph neutral (check for specific allergies)
- Child to change into clean clothes

Once a child has been showered, the following details must be recorded in the log book:

- Date
- Name
- Reasons for showering
- Names of adults present during showering
- Assistance given if required

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:

- Having two adults present during cleaning or showering of a child after soiling or during nappy changing
- Instructions must be given to the child so that they can wash and dry themselves unless they are incapable of doing so. Where assistance is given, permission should have been granted by parents (see Appendix 1) and this should be recorded in the log book
- Parents must be informed on the same day if a child has been showered
- If a child refuses to be showered or becomes distressed then parents should be contacted and showering should not take place
- 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

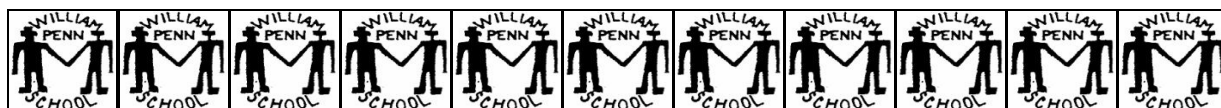
There is an obligation on local authorities to ensure that staff who have substantial, unsupervised access to children undergo police checks. All staff at William Penn School are DBS checked on application and cannot undertake tasks within school until all checks are completed satisfactorily. The DBS's 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.

References are also required and unsuitable candidates are not permitted to work within the school.

It is not appropriate for volunteers or students to carry out intimate care procedures.

Signed:

Date:



William Penn Permission form for the Provision of Care

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

Please indicate below that you are happy for school staff to help your child or whether you would prefer the school to contact you or your emergency contact who will be asked to attend without delay.

William Penn School has an Intimate Care Policy which is available to view on our website (www.willampenn.w-sussex.sch.uk), or to view in the school office.

Please fill out the permission slip below stating your preference.

Name of Child.....Class.....

Please delete as appropriate

*I give consent for my child to be changed and cleaned (including showering if part of a child's specific care or in exceptional circumstances) if they wet/soil themselves while in the care of William Penn School.

*I do not give consent for my child to be changed and cleaned if they wet/soil themselves. The school will contact me or my emergency contact and I will organise for my child to be cleaned and changed. I understand that in the event that I (or the emergency contact) cannot be contacted the staff will act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid the child.

Signature of Parent/Carer..... Date.....