



Chesham Preparatory School

INTIMATE CARE AND TOILETING POLICY

Note: This Policy applies to the Early Years Foundation Stage as well as to the whole school.

Chesham Preparatory School is dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We are committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We are committed to ensuring that children are treated with sensitivity and respect.

What is 'intimate care'?

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure that most children carry out for themselves, but which some are unable to do.

Intimate care tasks are associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene that demands direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, the genitals. Examples include support with dressing and undressing (underwear), helping someone use the toilet or washing intimate parts of the body, cleaning a pupil who has soiled him/herself or vomited.

Intimate care is also associated with other accidents and situations that may require a child to remove their clothes. These include changes required as a result of water play, messy play, weather and sickness. Disabled pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

Practicalities

It is expected that children will be toilet trained and out of nappies before they begin at school or nursery. However, we recognise that children will start Chesham Preparatory School having reached differing levels of independence and development in self-care. It is inevitable that from time to time some children will have accidents and need to be attended to. In addition to this, some children with disabilities and medical conditions may require adult assistance for their personal and intimate care needs.

In order to help the children to become aware of their bodily needs and respond to them in time, children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) have access to the toilet whenever they need and are encouraged to be as independent as is age and developmentally appropriate. They are regularly reminded to go to the toilet and are also encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet. As children progress through the School, they are encouraged to use the toilet during break times.

Role of staff

EYFS staff have access to two bathroom areas with toilets and hand basins with access to warm water. There is also a stock of wet wipes and plastic bags. Personal protective equipment is available and should be worn by staff and disposed of in yellow clinical waste bags. If a child soils him/herself during school time, staff will:

- remove their soiled clothes;

- clean the skin (this usually includes bottom, genitalia, legs, feet);
- dress the child in their own clothes or those provided by the School;
- wrap soiled clothes in plastic bags and give to parents to take home.

At all times the members of staff pay attention to the level of distress and comfort of the child. If the child is ill a member of staff informs the School Nurse. In the event a child is reluctant and adamantly refuses intimate care, the parent/carer will be contacted immediately.

Our intention is that a child will never be left in soiled clothing and as soon as a member of staff is aware of the situation they will clean the child. The member of staff responsible will check the child regularly and ensure that he/she is clean before leaving to go home.

There is careful communication with any pupil who requires intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication to discuss needs and preferences. Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children, taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation. Pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible, according to their individual condition and abilities. An individual care plan will be drawn up for any pupil requiring regular intimate care. Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the care plan.

Careful consideration is given to each individual situation to determine how many adults should be present during intimate care procedures. Where possible a pupil will be cared for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. In such a case, the reasons will be documented.

Role of parents/carers

Parents/carers are required to give permission for intimate care when their child joins the School by completing the relevant section on the Pupil's Health Record Form.

Child protection

The School's child protection procedures and multi-agency child protection procedures will be adhered to at all times. All members of staff carrying out intimate care procedures are DBS checked. If a child makes an allegation about a member of staff this will be investigated in accordance with agreed procedures.

Disabilities

The School's governing body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act which requires that any child with an impairment that affects his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

Policy reviewed: September 2023

Next review: September 2024

Person responsible: The Head of EYFS