

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School



Intimate Care Policy

2020-21

Introduction

This policy applies to all school activities.

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 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:

1. Supporting a pupil with dressing/undressing
2. Providing comfort or support for a distressed pupil
3. Assisting a pupil requiring medical care, who is not able to carry this out unaided
4. 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 Early Years and Nursery.
- Staff will always encourage children to attempt undressing and dressing unaided.
- If support is needed it will be provided within the setting. If this involves intimate care (changing underwear etc), we will ask staff to undertake this responsibility as a pair.

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 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 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 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.

N.B. As a school we only administer life sustaining or enhancing medicines which include the use of EpiPens for Anaphylaxis, Inhalers for Asthma, Ritalin for ADHD, and any medication that is required to support children with medical needs such as Cystic Fibrosis.

Parents must complete an administering medicine form. They must be labelled and handed into the school office. Please contact the school office if you need our support with this.

We do not administer non-prescribed medication such Calpol, Neurofen or cough medicine. If you want your child to have these in school you can contact the office to visit school and administer them yourself.

Soiling

Intimate care for soiling will be given to children who have had accidents. Staff will ensure that children self-clean as much as possible. If this involves intimate care (changing underwear etc) we will ask staff to undertake this responsibility as a pair.

- For children with soiling related to health care plans, permission will be sought for staff to clean and change the child. Staff will have medical training and provided with protective equipment and a designated waste bin.

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 this involves intimate care (changing underwear etc), we will ask staff to undertake this responsibility as a pair.

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

- Protective gloves and PPE 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 and self-clean 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
- Gloves, aprons etc are disposed of in the correct sanitary bin.
- Soiled clothing is put in a plastic bag, unwashed, and sent home with the child.

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
- Administer intimate care (changing underwear etc) as a pair.
- 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 Holy Cross Catholic Primary School are DBS checked on application and cannot undertake tasks within school until all checks are completed satisfactorily.
- The DBS 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 or students to carry out intimate care procedures.
- Staff will receive appropriate training.
- Staff will respect confidentiality at all times.

Policy will be reviewed in September 2021