

**Staynor Hall****INFORMATION**

Personal Care Policy (Intimate Care Policy) for Nursery Children

Please read for information but only return the tear-off slip if you DO NOT want our staff to clean/change your child.

We believe intimate care is any activity such as feeding, oral care, washing, changing clothes, toileting, first aid and medical assistance, comforting and support, and supervising intimate self-care that is required to meet the personal needs of a child regularly or during a one-off incident.

We have a duty to safeguard children and school personnel at all times. We must develop independence in each child but on those occasions when children need assistance they must feel safe, have personal privacy, feel valued, are treated with dignity and respect, are involved and consulted about their own intimate care with school personnel that are specially trained in intimate care procedures.

We treat every child as an individual treating them gently and sensitively as possible.

Purpose

- 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

The Ebor Academy Trust believe 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. Parent/Carers 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 wet / soiled him/herself, has vomited or feels unwell

Supporting dressing/undressing

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

Adults include: teaching staff, support staff and voluntary helpers.

Providing comfort or support

Children may seek physical comfort from staff (particularly children in 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

If it is necessary for a child to receive medicine during the academy day Parent/Carers must fill out a form from the academy office and discuss their child's needs with a member of staff before the academy 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 Parent/Carers or doctor
- Prescribed dose
- Expiry date

Wet/ Soiling

Parent/Carers will be kept fully informed of the procedures the academy will follow should their child need changing during school time. If a child has soiled or wet themselves we will clean and change them in a safe, private area with a familiar adult.

However if a Parent/Carer does not want a member of staff to provide personal care the academy will contact the Parent/Carers or other emergency contact giving specific details about the necessity for cleaning the child. If the Parent/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/Carer arrives. Children are not left on their own whilst waiting for a Parent/Carer 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 academy seeks to gain verbal consent from Parent/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 Parent/Carers 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 process is discussed in a friendly and reassuring way with the child throughout.
- 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.

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.
- Another member of staff will be available to support if this effects the ratios in the Unit a member of the office staff will support.
- Be aware of and responsive to the child's reaction.

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 Ebor Academy staff are subject to an enhanced DBS check, on application and cannot undertake tasks within the academy until all checks are completed satisfactorily.

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

Permission form for the Provision of Care

If a child wets or soils themselves while they are at the academy it is important that measures are taken to have them changed (and if necessary cleaned) as quickly as possible. Our staff are experienced and trained at carrying out this task if you wish them to do so or, if preferred, the academy can contact you or your emergency contact who will be asked to attend without delay.

Personal Care Policy – Reply Slip

Only complete and return this slip if you **do not** want the academy to clean/change your child. If you are happy for us to clean/change your child you do not need to return this slip.

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

*I **do not give** consent for my child to be changed and cleaned if they wet/soil themselves. The academy 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

