

Intimate Care Policy

2024

Introduction

Cleves Primary School is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and dignified environment for all of our students. This includes ensuring that children who require intimate care due to medical, physical, or personal needs are treated with the utmost care and sensitivity. This Intimate Care Policy outlines our procedures and principles for delivering intimate care in a respectful and child-centred manner.

The School recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010, which states that any pupil with an impairment affecting their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

Intimate Care Procedures:

1. **Assessment and Planning:** Intimate care needs will be assessed and documented in collaboration with the child's parents/guardians and relevant medical professionals. Individual Care Plans will be developed, detailing specific procedures, preferences, and any necessary equipment.
2. **Training and Supervision:** Staff members responsible for providing intimate care will receive appropriate training in accordance with the child's specific needs. All care procedures will be conducted under the supervision of trained staff.
3. **Consent:** In cases where the child is capable of providing consent, they will be asked for their agreement before any intimate care is administered. Where the child lacks capacity, parental/guardian consent will be obtained.
4. **Privacy and Modesty:** Intimate care will be conducted in a private area whenever possible. Children will be provided with appropriate coverings to protect their modesty. Only essential personnel will be present during the procedure.
5. **Documentation:** All intimate care procedures will be documented, including date, time, staff involved, and any issues or concerns that arise during the process.
6. **Communication:** Effective communication with the child is crucial. Staff members will use clear and age-appropriate language, offering reassurance and explaining each step of the process.
7. **Handling Equipment:** Any equipment used for intimate care will be clean, safe, and suitable for the child's needs. Equipment will be stored securely and cleaned according to hygiene standards.
8. **Emergency Procedures:** Staff will be trained in responding to emergencies related to intimate care, including situations involving equipment failure or unexpected complications.
9. **Parental/Carers Involvement:** Parents/guardians will be informed and involved in the development of the child's Individual Care Plan. They will also be kept informed of any changes or incidents related to their child's intimate care.

Mobile pupils will be changed while standing up. Pupils who are not mobile will be changed on a purpose-built changing bed or changing mat on the floor.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual pupils, taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty or menstruation.

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 regularly participate in swimming lessons at **Newham Leisure Centre**: during these lessons, pupils are entitled to privacy when changing; however, some pupils will need to be supervised during changing.

Parental consent will be obtained before assisting any pupils in changing clothing before and after swimming lessons. Details of any additional arrangements will be recorded in the pupil's individual care plan.