

The Edge Schools' Federation



INTIMATE CARE POLICY

March 2020

Rationale

It is our intention to develop independence in each child.

Our Intimate Care policy has been developed to safeguard children and staff. It is one of a range of specific policies that contribute to our Safeguarding of pupils. The principles and procedures apply to everyone involved in the intimate care of children.

Intimate care may be defined as any activity that is required to meet the personal needs of an individual child on a regular basis or during a one-off incident.

Such activities can include:

- toileting;
- feeding;
- oral care;
- washing;
- changing clothes;
- supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care.
- first aid and medical assistance;

Principles of Intimate Care

The following are the fundamental principles of intimate care upon which our policy guidelines are based.

Every child has the right to:-

- be safe;
- personal privacy;
- be valued as an individual;
- be treated with dignity and respect;

At The Edge Schools' Federation we do not offer toileting, washing, oral care or changing clothes or intimate care to children of school age unless they have a EHCP in which the intimate care needs of the child are clearly indicated, discussed with parents and designated to a trained member of staff named on the plan.

Children are encouraged to take care of their own personal care, including changing soiled clothes if possible. We will offer assistance in the form of advice and instructions to children. For example we will help children find any change of clothes in their bag and stand outside the toilet while they attempt to change themselves. However, staff will not directly supervise children while they change their clothes.

If children find it difficult to change their clothes or children are particularly soiled then parents/carers will be contacted to come into school to help the children.

This information is in the new parent's pack and also communicated to parents at initial contact e.g. new parent's induction evening.

First Aid is administered to all children by qualified First Aid Staff.

If the administering First Aid requires a child to remove clothing this will only be done in the presence of another member of staff and the reason clearly recorded in the First Aid Book.

Breakfast and After-school Care

Extended school care is offered to children of nursery age from 2 - 4 years old. We are aware that some children will still require nappies and or assistance with toileting and elements of intimate care at this age. Where children of this age require additional support, we will ensure that:

- Children only have their nappies or pull ups changed by a person who has relevant DBS check.
- Children will be changed in a private, designated area which complies with Health, Hygiene and Safety requirements.

- Staff will change the child in a discreet way and privacy will be respected at all times during nappy changing and care routine
- Staff will support the child's physical development regarding 'toilet training'.
- The designated area/mats will be cleaned before and after a child is changed with a suitable disinfectant cleaner.
- Appropriate hand washing facilities will be available for the adult and the child and hands will be washed using anti-bacterial soap and dried thoroughly after completing the procedure.
- Dirty nappies/pull ups will be disposed of in an outside bin immediately after changing the child.