



MURDISHAW WEST COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

INTIMATE CARE POLICY AUTUMN 2022

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| Policy Title | Intimate Care Policy |
| School/HBC | School |
| This policy complies with Halton LA guidance | NA |
| Linked Policies & Documents | Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy |
| Written By | Collette Sarsfield |
| Staff Approval Date | January 2023 |
| Governor Approval | February 2023 |
| Review Date | January 2026 |

Introduction

Overview

Murdishaw West Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We are committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. Unless children have special needs, we will normally expect that parents and carers prepare their children for school by showing them how to dress and undress independently and manage their own personal hygiene. Every effort should be made to encourage independence before a child arrives at school. Where children have the need for help with personal intimate care, we will ensure that the management of those needs will be carefully planned and that any child who requires such care is treated with respect and the child's welfare and dignity will be of paramount importance at all times.

What is intimate care?

Working with young children will often require adults to be involved in duties which require intimate care of children. Staff have been placed in a position of great trust and will be expected to carry out this sort of procedure whilst children are in our care. Intimate care covers any task that involves the washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate, personal areas and is associated with bodily functions and personal hygiene, including toileting, washing and dressing. Intimate care is a sensitive issue and will require staff to be respectful of a child's needs. The child's dignity should always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control. There should be a high level of awareness of child protection issues and fully meet with requirements of the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy. Staff behaviour must be open to scrutiny and staff should work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible.

Key Strategies

1. Staff members will follow the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. If a member of staff notices marks, injuries, bruising or undue soreness, staff members will follow the school's Safeguarding policy. This means it will be recorded using the school's CPOMS system and reported to the designated Safeguarding Lead.

2. Where the need for personal intimate care is known in advance, the members of staff who provide it will be properly trained to do so and are fully aware of best practice.
3. Early Years Foundation Stage will give particular attention to planning for the development of independence skills, particularly for children who are highly dependent upon adult support for personal care.
4. Children will not be excluded from everyday educational activities solely because of a manageable condition.
5. Before admitting a child, who has a continence problem, we will discuss with parents / carers the needs of the child and, if appropriate, draw up a continence care plan agreed by the school with the parents/carers and colleagues from the appropriate Health Authority. The child will also be consulted, if appropriate, as well as the staff involved in carrying out the care. The plan will include information about when and where the child will be cared for, and which members of staff will support and manage the plan.
6. In an emergency, any member of staff may be asked to provide personal intimate care and they will be guided by this policy, the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and any other relevant policy. More than one person must be present to safeguard the interests of both the child and carer unless the circumstances require immediate and urgent action, and a second person is unavailable.
7. Good practice in providing personal and intimate care will include the following:
 - Inform a colleague when a child needs to be taken to the toilet.
 - Make a signed record of each occasion, including date, time and any additional notes
 - Consideration should be given to providing intimate care to children of the opposite sex.
 - In considering this issue, attention should be paid to the age of the child his/her wishes and feelings, any expressed parental directions along with the wishes and feelings of the member of staff concerned.
 - Staff will use gloves and protective clothing, where a child has a care plan, parents will be expected to provide the school with a reserve of clothing. In an emergency the school will provide appropriate temporary clothing which parents will be expected to wash, iron and return.
8. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for him/herself as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves.
9. Where children have identified special needs that require personal and intimate care, individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child.
10. Wherever possible, staff should only care intimately for an individual that is known to them. However, in certain urgent or emergency circumstances this principle may need to be waived.
11. Where a child with SEN has on-going intimate care needs, arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the child's care plan.
12. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.
13. The school's Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures will be adhered to at all times.

Outcomes

This policy will play an important part in the care of pupils. It will ensure that all pupils are treated at all times with dignity and respect. We are committed to meeting the individual needs of each child and we will take full account of their age, special needs disability and gender when providing personal intimate care.