



Daneshill School

Intimate Care Policy

This policy applies to all parts of Daneshill School including the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Updated: September 2022

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Daneshill School Policy for Intimate Care

At Daneshill School we recognise that all children have different rates of development and differing needs during their time at school. This policy applies to all staff undertaking personal care tasks with children but particularly to those who are in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The normal range of development for children within the EYFS indicates that they may not be fully toilet trained. Some children may be at the early stages of toilet training at this age. In addition to this, there are other vulnerable groups of children and young people that may require support with personal care on either a short, longer term or permanent basis due to SEND, medical needs or a temporary impairment. The achievement of continence is an essential self-help skill, improving the person's quality of life, independence and self-esteem. We are committed to supporting children and their families to achieve continence to ensure a child's inclusion in school and their access to the curriculum is not inhibited.

Aims

All children have the right to be safe, to be treated with courtesy, dignity and respect and to be able to access all aspects of the educational curriculum. The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful of the child's needs. The child's dignity should always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain. There shall be a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour must be open to scrutiny and staff must work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible. At Daneshill we will work:

- to ensure that pupils with continence difficulties are not discriminated against
- to provide help and support to pupils in becoming fully independent in personal hygiene
- to treat continence issues sensitively so as to maintain the self-esteem of the child
- to work with parents in delivering a suitable care plan where necessary
- to ensure that staff dealing with continence issues work within guidelines that protect themselves and the pupils involved

Intimate Care

Intimate care is any care which involves washing or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up a pupil after they have soiled themselves) to intimate personal areas. Intimate personal care includes hands-on physical care in personal hygiene, and physical presence or observation during such activities.

Intimate personal care tasks can include:

- body bathing other than to arms, face and legs below the knee
- toileting, wiping and care in the genital and anal areas.
- dressing and undressing.
- application of medical treatment, other than to arms, face and legs below the knee
- supporting with the changing of sanitary protection

Our approach to best practice

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires intimate care is treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance. The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for him/her as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves.

In the event of a child requiring intimate care at Daneshill School, the following actions will be taken:

- the adult will make it known to other members of staff in the area that they are about to provide intimate care to a child. The care will always take place within an open room and doors left open;
- an adult who is known to the child will take responsibility for the child to ensure they feel safe and comfortable;
- the adult will prepare the child for what is going to happen;
- the adult will give an ongoing commentary and explanation to the child to detail what is happening in a straightforward and reassuring way. Staff knowledge of the child will ensure developmentally appropriate language is used;

- the child will be given an appropriate level of privacy. Intimate care will usually take place in the children's toilet area. Where this is not possible or it is not appropriate to remove the child from the location of the incident, modesty and privacy will be maintained;
- when washing the child, a sponge, flannel or wipes will be used and the child will always be encouraged to attempt the wash the private parts of the body themselves;
- the child will always be encouraged and supported to be as independent as possible and to take the lead managing their self-care. Staff will guide and support the children to do as much for themselves as possible
- staff will wear gloves to protect themselves and others;
- if it is not possible to change the child standing up, a changing mat will be used;
- soiled waste should be disposed of safely in a separate bag and placed in the designated bag. Wider healthy and safety procedures must be followed;
- intimate care is logged in the accident book and a copy sent home to parents.

Appropriate and suitable hygienic facilities for changing children are provided to include:

- hot running water and soap (antibacterial where possible)
- changing mat for very young children
- toilet rolls
- antiseptic cleanser
- Milton/sterilising fluid
- bowl/bucket
- paper towels/cloths
- disposable aprons and gloves
- nappy bags/sacks
- cleaning equipment
- bin
- a supply of spare nappies and wipes (provided by the child's parent/ carer)
- spare clothes (school has their own supply of spare clothes, but parents are encouraged to provide children with their own spare clothes to ensure the child feels most at ease and comfortable)
- paper towels to dry hands.

Whilst providing intimate care to a child, staff/child ratios may be altered and it is important to be flexible with staff allocation in order to meet the children's needs. Staff must use their judgement to assess whether additional adults are required and should use the classroom telephones to request additional staff if this is required.

We value parental input and recognise their knowledge of the child. We will always work together with parents and carers to support children reaching continence and becoming independent in this area.

The Protection of Children

Education Child Protection Procedures and safeguarding procedures will be adhered to. It is not a legal requirement for two adults to be present whilst giving intimate care but we will always ensure another adult is within sight/hearing distance. All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding. If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc., they will immediately report concerns to the appropriate manager/ designated person for child protection and school wide safeguarding procedures will be followed and adhered to.