

Hexham First School

Early Years Intimate Care Policy



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Statement of intent

Hexham First School understands the importance of its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Pupils may require assistance with intimate care as a result of their age, medical needs or due to having SEND. In all instances, effective safeguarding procedures are of paramount importance. This policy has been developed to ensure that all staff responsible for providing intimate care undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times and treat children with sensitivity and respect. The school is committed to providing intimate care for children in ways that:

- Maintain their dignity.
- Are sensitive to their needs and preferences.
- Maximise their safety and comfort.
- Protect them against intrusion and abuse.
- Respect the child's right to give or withdraw their consent.
- Encourage the child to care for themselves as much as they can.
- Protect the rights of all others involved.

Children **are expected to be** toilet trained on entry to Hexham First School. Our Early Years team are on hand to offer advice on how to toilet train and they will direct parents/carers to the relevant support (as required). We recognise that all children have different needs and that some children may need additional support due to a medication condition, disability or Special Educational Need. In these cases, parents/carers should contact the Early Years team at the earliest opportunity prior to the child starting in school.

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to the relevant legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Childcare Act 2006
- Education Act 2002
- Education Act 2011
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended in 2004)

1.2. This policy has due regard to the relevant statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

DfE (2022) 'Keeping children safe in education'

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1101454/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2022.pdf

2. What is intimate care?

2.1. For the purpose of this policy, "intimate care" is the hands-on, physical care in personal hygiene, as well as physical presence or observation during such activities.

2.2. Intimate care includes the following:

- Washing or wiping a child's body (other than to the arms and face, and to the legs below the knee)
- Application of medical treatment (other than to the arms and face, and to the legs below the knee)
- Toileting, wiping and care in the genital and anal areas
- Dressing and undressing

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1. The headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that intimate care is conducted professionally and sensitively.
- Ensuring that the intimate care of children is carefully planned, including the creation of individual plans following discussions with the parent and the child and with input from the SENCO.
- Communicating with parents/carers in order to establish effective partnerships when providing intimate care to children.
- Handling any complaints about the provision of intimate care in line with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

3.2. All members of staff who provide intimate care are responsible for:

- Undergoing appropriate training for the provision of intimate care.
- Undertaking intimate care practice respectfully, sensitively and in line with the guidelines outlined in this policy.

3.3. Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Liaising with the school to communicate their wishes about their child's intimate care.
- Providing their consent to the school's provision of their child's intimate care on Form 1 (attached to this Policy)
- Adhering to their duties and contributions to their child's intimate care plan, as outlined in this policy.

4. Procedures for intimate care

4.1. Staff who provide intimate care will have a list of personalised intimate care routines for the children in their care, which will be adhered to and will be shared with parents/carers regularly.

4.2. Staff who provide intimate care will provide intimate care procedures when necessary in addition to personalised care routines; no child will be left in wet/soiled clothing.

4.3. In addition to items provided by parents/carers for their children in accordance with this policy, the school will keep items to ensure there will be clean underwear, wipes and any other individual changing equipment necessary.

4.4. Before changing a child, members of staff will put on disposable gloves and the changing area will be cleaned appropriately.

4.5. The changing areas are warm and comfortable for the children and are private from others.

4.6. Hot water and soap are available for staff to wash their hands before and after providing intimate care to a child and the changing area will also be cleaned appropriately after use.

4.7. Any soiled clothing will be placed in a tied plastic bag and will be returned to parents/carers at the end of the school day.

4.8. Any bodily fluids that transfer onto the changing area will be cleaned appropriately.

4.9. If a pupil requires cream or other medicine, such as for a rash in an intimate area, this will be provided by parents in accordance with the Administering Medication Policy, and full parental consent will be gained prior to this.

4.10. All children will be encouraged to use the toilet facilities and will be reminded at regular intervals to go to the toilet.

4.11. Members of staff will use the **Toilet Introduction Procedures**, as outlined in the appendices of this policy, to get children used to using the toilet and encourage them to be as independent as possible.

4.12. Children will be reminded and encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet, following the correct procedures for using soap and drying their hands.

5. Parental/carer engagement

5.1. The school will liaise closely with parents/carers to establish individual intimate care programmes for each child requiring intimate care which will set out the following:

- What care is required
- Number of staff needed to carry out the care
- Any additional equipment needed
- The child's preferred means of communication, e.g. visual/verbal, and the terminology to be used for parts of the body and bodily functions
- The child's level of ability, i.e. what procedures of intimate care the child can do themselves
- Any adjustments necessary in respect of cultural or religious views
- The procedure for monitoring and reviewing the intimate care plan

5.2. The information concerning the child's intimate care plan will be stored confidentially, and the parents/carers and the staff responsible for carrying out the child's intimate care will have access to the information.

5.3. The parents/carers of the child are required to sign the Intimate Care Parental Consent Form to provide their agreement to the plan; no intimate care will be carried out without prior parental consent.

5.4. In respect of the above, if no parental consent has been given and the child does not have an intimate care plan, but the child requires intimate care, parents/carers will be contacted by phone in order to gain consent or a request will be made for the parent to attend the setting.

5.5. Any changes that may need to be made to a child's intimate care plan will be discussed with the parents/carers to gain consent and will then be recorded in the written intimate care plan.

5.6. For children on an Intimate Care Plan, parents will be asked to supply the following items for their child's use:

- Wipes, creams etc.
- Spare clothing
- Spare underwear
- Nappies/Pull ups if appropriate.

6. Safeguarding procedures

- 6.1.** The school adopts rigorous safeguarding procedures in accordance with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and will apply these requirements to the intimate care procedures.
- 6.2.** Intimate care is classified as regulated activity; therefore, the school will ensure that all adults providing intimate care have undergone an enhanced DBS check (which includes barred list information) enabling them to work with children.
- 6.3.** All members of staff will receive safeguarding training on a regular basis, and receive child protection and safeguarding updates as required, but at least annually.
- 6.4.** All members of staff are instructed to report any concerns about the safety and welfare of children with regards to intimate care, including any unusual marks, bruises or injuries, to the DSL in accordance with the school's Safeguarding Policy.
- 6.5.** Any concerns about the correct safeguarding of children will be dealt with in accordance with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

7. Monitoring and review

- 7.1.** This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher and DSL, who will make any changes necessary and communicate these to all members of staff.
- 7.2.** The next scheduled review date is February 2026.
- 7.3.** All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programme

Toilet Introduction Procedures

As children develop bladder and bowel control, they will pass through the following three stages:

1. The child becomes aware of having wet and/or soiled pants
2. The child knows that urination/defecation is taking place and can alert an adult
3. The child realises that they need to urinate/defecate and alerts an adult in advance

During these stages, parents/carers should assess the child over a period of two weeks to determine:

- If there is a pattern to when the child is soiled/wet.
- The indicators that the child displays when they need the toilet, e.g. facial expressions.
- Parents/carers should implement the following strategies to get children used to using the toilet and being independent:
- Familiarise the child with the toilet, washing their hands, flushing the toilet and referencing other family members/siblings as good role-models for this practice
- Encourage the child to use the toilet when they are using their personal indicators to show that they may need the toilet
- Take the child to the toilet at a time when monitoring has indicated that this is when they would usually need the toilet
- Ensure that the child can reach the toilet and is comfortable doing so
- Stay with the child and talk to them to make them more relaxed about using the toilet
- Don't force the child to use the toilet if they don't want to, but still encourage them to do so using positive language and praise
- Deal with any accidents discreetly, sensitively and without any unnecessary attention
- Be patient with children when they are using the toilet, and use positive language and praise to encourage them.

FORM 1: Individual Intimate Care Parental Consent Form

This form is to be completed by the EYFS teacher and signed by parents/carers. Supporting documentation should be attached to show medical condition, disability or Special Educational Need (e.g. confirmation and details of a formal medical diagnosis)

Name of child		Date of Birth	
Class Teacher	Mrs Moore and Mrs Paisley	Date:	

Intimate Care requirements, including frequency:

The table below outlines the members of staff responsible for carrying out your child's intimate care programme, as well as the members of staff responsible in their absence:

Names of staff members:	Early Years team and EYFS lunch staff Mrs Moore, Mrs Paisley, Miss Tanner, Miss Metacalf, Miss Ward, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Brough
Name of staff members (in the above staff member's absence):	Mrs Overton & Miss Barton if EYFS team member not available

Where will the intimate care be carried out?

In EYFS toilet area or on changing mat where appropriate

What equipment/resources will be required?

Wipes, Gloves, changing mat, clothing supplied by parents/carers or from school stocks, waste disposal, bag for soiled clothing

What infection control procedures are in place?

Daily cleaning and sterilisation of area, anti bac wiping of mat before and following intimate care procedures, gloves

What disposal procedures are in place?

Hygienic disposal in EYFS bins

What do parents/carers need to provide?

Wipes, change of clothing, spare pull ups / nappies where appropriate

What are the reporting procedures for parents/carers?

Verbal at the end of day and also recorded in EYFS Intimate Care file

I have read the Early Years Intimate Care Policy provided by Hexham First School and I agree to the intimate care plan outlined above:

Signature of parent:		Date:	
Signature of EYFS teacher:		Date:	