

Highters Heath Community School Intimate Care Policy



[Rights Respecting Schools' Article/s](#)

A23: A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community.

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Intimate care can be defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas which most people usually carry out themselves, but some pupils are unable to do because of their young age, physical difficulties or other special needs. Examples include care associated with continence, first aid and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing, toileting or dressing. In school this may occur on a regular basis or during a one-off incident.

No child is excluded from participating in our school who may, for any reason, not yet be toilet trained and who may still be wearing nappies or equivalent. We work with parents and other professionals towards independent toilet training, unless there are medical or other developmental reasons why this may not be appropriate at the time. Parents are to provide all the necessary resources for this to happen.

We recognise that there is a need to treat all pupils, whatever their age, gender, disability, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation with respect and dignity when intimate care is given. The child's welfare is of paramount importance and his/her experience of intimate and personal care should be a positive one. It is essential that every pupil is treated as an individual and that care is given gently and sensitively: no pupil should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Our fundamental principles are:

- Every child has the right to be safe.
- Every child has the right to personal privacy.
- Every child has the right to be valued as an individual.
- Every child has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Every child has the right to be involved and consulted in their own intimate care to the best of their abilities.
- Every child has the right to express their views on their own intimate care and to have such views taken into account.
- Every child has the right to have levels of intimate care that are as consistent as possible.

Practice

Pupils who require regular assistance with intimate care must have health care plans or intimate care plans agreed by staff, parents/carers and any other professionals actively involved, such as school nurses or physiotherapists.

Parents have the responsibility to advise school of any known intimate care needs relating to their child. Where relevant, it is good practice to agree with the pupil and parents/carers appropriate terminology for private parts of the body and functions and this should be noted in the plan. In the case of a special procedure only a person suitable trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure.

Where a care plan is **not** in place, parents/carers will be informed the same day if their child has needed help with meeting intimate care needs (e.g. has had an 'accident' and wet or soiled him/herself). It is recommended practice that information on intimate care should be treated as confidential and communicated in person or by sealed letter.

Accurate records should also be kept when a child requires assistance with intimate care. It should be clear who was present in every case. Staff should be fully aware of best practice regarding infection control, including the requirement to wear disposable gloves and where to dispose of appropriate waste. Staff who provide intimate care should speak to the pupil personally by name, explain what they are doing and communicate with all children in a way that reflects their ages, and make the experience as dignified as possible.

Adults who assist pupils with intimate care should be employees of the school or council, not students or volunteers, and therefore have the usual range of safer recruitment checks, including enhanced DBS checks. Staff should go in pairs to assist a pupil with intimate care to safeguard all parties. No member of staff will carry a mobile phone, camera or similar device whilst providing intimate care.

If a pupil becomes unusually distressed or very unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, this should be reported to the Leadership Team.

The school's safeguarding, child protection, health and safety, and code of conduct procedures will always be adhered to.

Date Created – October 2022

To be reviewed – As required