



St Martin's School

Intimate Care Policy



Introduction

Intimate care is the situations in which members of staff may need to touch a pupil's bare skin (other than their hands) and/or be exposed to private areas of a child's body. Situations when we would expect this may occur are: during changing for PE or swimming; when conducting first aid for injuries and during support with toilet training.

Note: We expect all children at St Martin's School and Nursery to manage their own toileting needs. However, we recognise that children, especially our younger pupils at an earlier stage in their development, may have the occasional accident, and/or require support with their self-care.

Policy Aims

Safeguarding is our upmost priority at St Martin's School and Nursery. This policy aims to ensure the children in our care are safe from harm and treated with dignity during intimate care situations. It also aims to protect staff from allegations by outlining the procedures and protocol clearly.

General procedures

Only a staff member with relevant police checks and qualifications will be involved in intimate care and, as far as possible, they will be well known to the child. All such staff should be familiar with the hygiene procedures and carry them out when changing any child. Staff will remain in sight of another staff member when providing intimate care. This includes leaving the toilet door open when supporting toileting. Staff will request a second adult for intimate first-aid care that involves the removal of clothing to check injuries or touching the pupil. No devices with cameras, including mobile phones, will be used in intimate care settings. Staff will wear a new pair of disposable gloves and plastic aprons when dealing with any bodily substances including urine, faeces, blood, sick etc. Appropriate hand washing facilities, including soap will be available for the adult and the child to wash their hands thoroughly using bacterial soap and dried thoroughly with a paper towel afterwards.

Children changing clothes

We encourage children to be as independent as possible when getting undressed and dressed for PE and swimming. Where underwear remains in place, we encourage children to change quickly and sensibly in the classroom. We have found this to support self-esteem and body confidence. Children who need help changing will be supported in this setting. Older children may change in a single gender environment, upon request. Where underwear is removed, children are encouraged to change in the toilets or, in the case of swimming, specialised changing rooms for each gender. For younger children who have soiled themselves, please read the supporting toilet training section. In both circumstances, staff need to be aware of children's need for privacy whilst being sensible about the amount of help they may need depending on the child's age and ability.

Toileting support

Children are reminded at regular times to go to the toilet and are encouraged to take an interest in using the toilet. Children can use the toilets whenever they need to and are encouraged to be as independent as is developmentally appropriate including flushing, washing their hands with soap and drying them with paper towels. However, should a child have an accident, staff will support them to get clean and into fresh clothes. Gloves and aprons are worn by staff before changing commences and the area is prepared. Staff ensure wipes, toilet paper and paper towels are available in the changing area which is to be used. Changing should be a relaxed time to promote independence in young children. Staff will remain positive in their language, body language and facial expressions about both the situation and the child. All soiled equipment and the area should be disinfected. All wipes etc. should be disposed of hygienically in the yellow bin. Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to take home. At least 1 full set of spare clothes, including socks, must be provided by parents for children in EYFS to be available daily.

Written by: Paula Norval (EYFS Leader) and Mrs Mbah (Head Teacher)

Ratified by: Governors

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