



Intimate Care policy

Introduction

Due to the complex learning, physical, sensory and emotional needs of the learners at Greenside School, many will require a higher level of help and support in aspects relating to their intimate care. This policy provides guidance for staff detailing expectations, training and support.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the schools:

- Touch and physical contact policy;
- Safeguarding policy,
- Child Protection policy,
- Health & Safety policy
- Moving and handling policy.

Rationale

Greenside School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of learners will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times.

Greenside School recognises that there is a need to treat all learners with respect when intimate care is given.

All staff at Greenside School must be committed to Safeguarding our pupils.

The learner's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Each learner's right to privacy must be respected. Careful consideration must be given to each learner's situation to determine how many adults might need to be present when a learner is being supported to use the toilet or is being changed. Where possible one learner will be catered for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present.

Purpose of intimate care:

- To give medical and nursing care.
- Support a learner to access the toilet
- To ensure that each learner feels clean and fresh.
- Assist learners after they have used the toilet to ensure that their bottom is clean (*this will often form part of their IEP*).
- Assist learners manage their menstruation (*this will often form part of their IEP*).

Expectations

All class and lunch time staff (teachers and assistants) are required to contribute to all aspects of intimate care.

In order to safeguard all concerned, male members of staff must not change, or assist female learners with their intimate care.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual learners taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation.

Staff will encourage each pupil to do as much for him / herself as he/she can..

Planning

Individual intimate care plans form an important part of Access to Learning Plans.

For some learners a risk assessment will be required. A risk could be e.g. a previous allegation by the pupil or manual handling concerns. If this is the case the reasons should be clearly documented.

Requirements for good practice:

- Parents are informed and consulted about arrangements for intimate care
- Staff are familiar with risk assessments, access to learning plans, guidelines and procedures before they support any learner with their intimate care.
- Staff know who to turn to for advice if they feel unsure or uncomfortable about a particular situation.
- Staff need to be clear and open about why they are using touch and be able to explain their practice.
- There must be clarity and transparency in issues of touch.

Wherever possible, a description and rationale for physical contact and the details of it should be documented in the young person's Access to Learning Plan (ALP) following discussion with parents and other relevant people.

As far as possible, the young person involved should consent to any touch given and staff should be sensitive to any verbal and non-verbal communication they give that might indicate that they don't want to be touched. It should always be considered by staff that for touch to provide positive experiences it should be consensual.

Staff should be sensitive to any changes in the young person's behaviour (e.g. overexcitement or negative reactions) that might indicate the need to reduce or withdraw touch; particularly during play or intensive interaction. Significant changes in behaviour should be clearly recorded.

Review and monitoring of the policy

The intimate care policy is reviewed every 3 years. Each member of the SLT is trained as a Designated Senior Person (DSP) and monitors the implementation of the Intimate Care policy.