



YSGOL GYMRAEG YSTALYFERA-BRO DUR

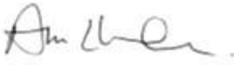
Intimate Care Policy

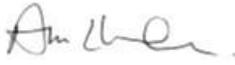
Designated Child Protection Officer Ystalyfera:	Mrs Delyth Spurway
Designated Child Protection Officer Bro Dur:	Miss Sioned Jones
Deputy Designated Child Protection Officers Ystalyfera:	Mrs Rhiannon Hammond/ Mrs Angharad Lloyd
Deputy Designated Child Protection Officer Bro Dur:	Miss Kath Jones
Designated Child Protection Governor:	Mrs Carys Jones

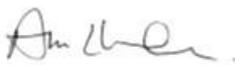
Adopted by Governing Body 2018

Signed (Chair of Governors):  January 2018

Reviewed by Governing Body:

Signed (Chair of Governors):  January 2019

Signed (Chair of Governors):  January 2020

Signed (Chair of Governors):  January 2021

Signed (Chair of Governors): January 2022

Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur

Intimate Care Policy

Rationale

It is our intention to develop independence in each child, however there will be occasions when help is required. Our intimate care policy has been developed to safeguard children and staff. It is one of a range of specific policies that contribute to our pastoral care policy. The principles and procedures apply to everyone involved in the intimate care of children.

There shall be a high awareness of child protection issues throughout the use of intimate care and 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.

School staff are working within local authority insurance cover; provided that the Intimate Care Policy in conjunction with the pupil's Intimate Care Plan are agreed and recorded by the parents, health and education.

Children are generally more vulnerable than adults; and staff involved with any aspect of pastoral care need to be sensitive to their individual needs.

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up a pupil after they have soiled themselves) to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve cleaning for hygiene purposes as part of a staff member's duty of care.

Intimate care can be defined as any activity that is required to meet the personal needs of an individual child on a regular basis or during a one-off incident. Such activities can include:

- feeding
- oral care
- washing
- changing clothes
- toileting
- first aid and medical assistance, in conjunction with the relevant Health Care Plan
- supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care

Parents have a responsibility to advise the school of any known intimate care needs relating to their child.

Principles of Good Practice in Intimate Care

The following are the fundamental principles of intimate care upon which our policy guidelines are based:

- All children have an educational entitlement irrespective of their difficulties with toileting

- 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
- all children have the right to be involved and consulted in their own intimate care to the best of their abilities
- all children have the right to express their views on their own intimate care and to have such views taken into account; and
- every child has the right to have levels of intimate care that are appropriate and consistent
- Schools should work in partnership with parents and carers in planning for toileting needs and effective toilet training, acknowledging that continence and independent toileting may not be achieved by some children

School Responsibilities

All staff working with children will be subject to the usual safer recruitment procedures. This includes students on work placement and volunteers. Vetting includes DBS checks at an enhanced level and two written references.

Only those members of staff who are familiar with the individual pupil's intimate care plan, the school's intimate care policy and other pastoral care policies of the school are to be involved in the intimate care of children.

Where anticipated; intimate care arrangements are agreed between the school and parents and if appropriate, by the child. Intimate care agreements are signed by the parent and stored in the child's file. Only in an emergency would staff undertake any aspect of intimate care that has not been agreed by parents and school. Parents would then be contacted immediately.

Intimate care arrangements should be reviewed at least six monthly. The views of all relevant parties should be sought and considered to inform future arrangements.

If a staff member has concerns about a colleague's intimate care practice he or she must report this to the designated teacher for child protection.

Guidelines for Good Practice

The school will identify a suitable changing area for pupils, to enable the privacy of pupils to be maintained and to provide sufficient staff to safeguard the pupil. It is recommended that where possible, intimate care is delivered by one person; this ensures the dignity of the child/young person involved; however there may be occasions where a risk assessment shows this to be an unsuitable arrangement and double staffing may be required.

Parents will be encouraged to attend school to meet their own child's intimate care needs where practical and possible; however, it is accepted that on some occasions; and with prior consultation between parents and school staff; it is not always practical or possible for this to be achieved and on these occasions intimate care might be required.

If the school lacks a suitable changing area or is unable to provide adequate supervision, arrangements will need to be agreed with parents to attend school and change the child. If this necessitates the child leaving the school site with the parent then there is an expectation that the parent will return the child to school to complete the school day.

All children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect. These guidelines are designed to safeguard children and staff. They apply to every member of staff involved with the intimate care of children.

Staff also need to be aware that some adults may use intimate care, as an opportunity to abuse children. It is important to bear in mind that some forms of assistance can be open to misinterpretation. Adhering to the following guidelines of good practice should safeguard children and staff.

1. Involve the child in the intimate care

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/herself as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child the responsibility for washing themselves. Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances.

Where a situation renders a child fully dependent; talk about what is going to be done and provide choices where possible. Check your practice by asking the child or parent about any preferences while carrying out the intimate care.

2. Treat every child with dignity and respect and ensure privacy appropriate to the child's age and situation.

Where appropriate intimate care should always be delivered by one person; unless a risk assessment indicates otherwise.

3. Make sure practice in intimate care is consistent.

As a child may have multiple carers a consistent approach to care is essential. Effective communication between all parties ensures that practice is consistent. Issues regarding complex areas would need to be explicit within the pupils Healthcare Plan, which must be referred to.

4. Be aware of your own limitations

Only carry out activities you understand and feel competent with. If in doubt, ASK. Some procedures must only be carried out by members of staff who have been formally trained and assessed.

5. Promote positive self-esteem and body image.

Confident, self-assured children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to sexual abuse. The approach you take to intimate care can convey lots of messages to a child

about their body worth. Your attitude to a child's intimate care is important. Keeping in mind the child's age, routine care can be both efficient and relaxed.

6. If you have any concerns you must report them.

If you observe any unusual markings, discolouration or swelling report it immediately to the designated teacher for child protection and record in the relevant observation log.

If a child is accidentally hurt during the intimate care or misunderstands or misinterprets something, reassure the child, ensure their safety and report the incident immediately to the designated teacher. Report and record any unusual emotional or behavioural response by the child. A written record of concerns must be made available to parents and kept in the child's personal file.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution. Staffing schedules will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved so that the child's needs are paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.

If a child or parent/carer makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary child protection procedures must be followed and the designated teacher must be informed immediately; as will the LEA's Child & Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Officer. (See schools Child Protection Policy for details)

Working With Children of the Opposite Sex

There is positive value in both male and female staff being involved with children. Ideally, every child should have the choice for intimate care but the current ratio of female to male staff means that assistance will more often be given by a woman.

The intimate care of boys and girls can be carried out by a member of staff of the opposite sex with the following provisions:

- when intimate care is being carried out, all children have the right to dignity and privacy, i.e. they should be appropriately covered, the door closed or screens/curtains put in place
- If the child appears distressed or uncomfortable when personal tasks are being carried out, the care should stop immediately. Try to ascertain why the child is distressed and provide reassurance
- report any concerns to the designated teacher for child protection and make a written record; and
- Parents must be informed about any concerns

Communication with Children

It is the responsibility of all staff caring for a child to ensure that they are aware of the child's method and level of communication. Depending on their maturity and levels of stress children may communicate using different methods - words, signs, symbols, body movements, eye pointing, etc. To ensure effective communication:

- make eye contact at the child's level
- use simple language and repeat if necessary
- wait for response
- continue to explain to the child what is happening even if there is no response; and
- treat the child as an individual with dignity and respect

Equipment Provision

Parents should provide clean change of clothing, nappies, disposal bags, wipes, changing mat etc and parents must be made aware of this responsibility. Schools are responsible for providing gloves, plastic aprons, a bin and liners to dispose of waste.

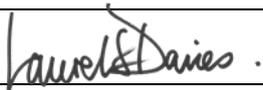
Health and Safety

Staff should always wear an apron and gloves when dealing with any child who is bleeding or soiled, or when changing a soiled nappy. Any soiled waste should be placed in a polyurethane waste disposal bag, which can be sealed. This bag should then be placed in a bin (complete with liner) which is specifically designated for such waste. The bin should be emptied on a weekly basis and it can be collected as part of the usual waste collection as this waste is not classified as clinical waste

Review

Intimate care agreements must be reviewed on a regular basis according to the developing needs of the child; this should take place at least on a termly basis and the toileting plan will then be updated.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

	Name	Signature	Date
Chair of Governors	Mr Alun Llewelyn		January 2021
Head Teacher	Mrs Laurel Davies		January 2021

Review Date

January	2022
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