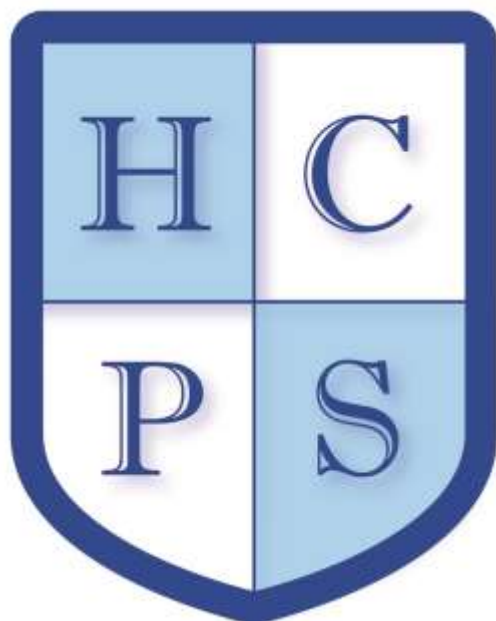


Hunslet Carr Primary School



Intimate Care Policy

**High Expectations
Caring
Positive Attitudes
Successful**

Policy reviewed: Sept 2022 To be reviewed: Sept 2024

High Expectations, Caring, Positive Attitudes, Successful



The office blocks of Leeds are visible from our classrooms and it is our belief and desire that children from Hunslet Carr Primary School should be able to grow up and be successful within their own city. We want our children to aspire to be the lawyers, doctors and professionals that work in our city every day and to give them experiences to inspire their self-belief.

The key to ensuring our children succeed, both while pupils at the school and in the future, is having a caring stimulating and stable environment in which to enjoy their early years. We work hard to ensure the school allows our pupils to grow in to happy, caring members of the community.



What does Impossible is Nothing means to us?

Impossible is Nothing means you can achieve anything when you are resilient and you persevere.

Purpose of the policy

This Intimate Care Policy has been developed to safeguard children; support staff & ensure good practice is followed. At Hunslet Carr Primary School, all staff are checked with the Disclosure & Barring Service & we are committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We believe that the intimate care of children is paramount to their overall health & wellbeing & we actively encourage the children to be involved in this process.

Principles and Values

Intimate care is any care which is associated with invasive procedures relating to bodily functions, bodily products & personal hygiene which demands direct or indirect contact with or exposure of intimate parts of the body, such as cleaning up after a child who has soiled themselves. In addition, some children may need help with dressing/undressing or using the toilet. Most children can carry out these functions themselves but it is recognised that some are unable to due to physical disability, learning difficulties, medical needs or needs arising from the child's development.

If a child expresses discomfort, either physically or verbally regarding their intimate parts, it is **not** a matter that should be dealt with by school staff, a phone call will be made to parents/carers at the earliest opportunity. There will be an expectation that parents/carers will come into school to decide on the next course of action for their child.

If these concerns are of a safeguarding nature, they should be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

This intimate care policy should be read in conjunction with the schools' policies and guidance as below:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Administering Medicine Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Safer Working Practice Guidance
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Leeds City Council Intimate Care Guidance

Principles of Intimate Care:

- every child has the right to be safe and 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.

Intimate Care Expectations at Hunslet Carr

We recognise the need to treat all children with respect and dignity when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

We appreciate that sometimes children have toileting 'accidents' which are out of character for them. In the event of this & in the absence of an intimate care plan, the child would be fully encouraged and supported to achieve the highest level of independence that is possible given their ability. Parents & carers will be notified the same day if their child has needed assistance.

On the rare occasion that a child is soiled to a point where they are unable to clean themselves to a comfortable state, parents/carers will be contacted immediately, so the child could be taken home to be cleaned thoroughly.

Where children require regular assistance with intimate care, they will have an Intimate Care Plan (ICP) in place, which have been agreed by staff, parents/carers and any other professionals actively involved.

The plan should be regularly reviewed with parents/carers, in line with the child's personal development or change of circumstances, e.g., for residential trips or staff changes.

A child's right to privacy & modesty will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine who and how many carers might need to be present when s/he needs help with intimate care.

Staff carrying out intimate care, as set out in the child's ICP, in the changing facility will be accompanied nearby by another adult to assist if needed. Wherever possible, the child's wishes and feelings should be sought and taken into account & staff will be vigilant & responsive to a child's reactions.

From a child protection perspective, it is acknowledged that intimate care involves risks for children and adults as it may involve staff touching intimate parts of a pupil's body. At Hunslet Carr Primary School, consistent and clear practice will be promoted and all adults will be encouraged to be vigilant at all times, to seek advice where relevant and take account of safer working practice e.g. The practitioner may ask the child "Is it Ok to do it this way?" "Can you wash there?" "How does mummy do that?"

If staff are unsure how to carry out certain intimate care or treatment procedures, or they are unsure on any aspect of intimate care, they should **stop** and seek immediate advice from their line manager, senior member of staff or Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The Protection of Children

- Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures will be adhered to
- all children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding to build their confidence and assertiveness about their own body and its worth
- within our school curriculum, including PSHE lessons, children will be taught about the changes to their body and about how to keep their body safe. This will include lessons designed by the NSPCC around the 'under pants' rule

- confident and assertive children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to abuse
- if a member of staff has a concern about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g., marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- if a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff as part of their ICP, parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity to discuss the concerns in order to reach a resolution.

Allegations of Abuse

Members of staff working in intimate situations with children can feel particularly vulnerable. This policy can help to reassure both staff involved & the parents/carers of vulnerable children. Action will be taken immediately should there be a discrepancy of reports between a child & member of staff.

Where there is an allegation of abuse, the guidelines in the Allegations Management Procedures will be followed. If staff are concerned about a child's demeanor during or following intimate care, or has responded to or said something that has caused concern during the intimate care, they will report such incidents immediately to the DSL both in person and as soon as possible via CPOMS, who will follow the correct safeguarding procedures.

Health and Safety

Staff should always wear gloves when dealing with a child who is bleeding or soiled or when changing a soiled nappy. (The school will provide gloves, a bin and liners to dispose of any waste)

Any soiled waste should be placed in a polythene waste disposal bag which can be sealed. This bag should then be placed in an appropriate bin which is specifically designated for the disposal of such waste.