



Clifton High School

co-educational nursery pre-school to sixth form

Policy applies from EYFS to Sixth Form	Child Protection and Safeguarding – Intimate Care
Date policy updated	01.09.2019
Date Policy to be reviewed	01.08.2020 or earlier to reflect any changes in legislation
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Clifton High School is committed to child protection and safeguarding children and young people and expects all staff, visitors and volunteers to share this commitment.

At Clifton High School, the School Nurse, Healthcare Practitioners, Teachers and Teaching Assistants may undertake care tasks of an intimate nature, such as nappy changing and cleaning a pupil after soiling or wetting. These staff will also support pupil's with medical conditions of an intimate nature. In such instances, it is important that great care is taken to maintain the pupil's dignity and safeguarding guidance is at the forefront of the staff member's mind.

Members of staff who work with pupils will realise that the issue of intimate care is a difficult one and will require staff to be respectful of the pupil's needs.

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene which demand direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the genitals. Examples include care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing or bathing.

A pupil's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Members of staff who provide intimate care to pupils have a high awareness of child protection and safeguarding issues. The behaviour of members of staff is open to scrutiny and at Clifton High School they work in partnership with parents to provide continuity of care to the pupils wherever possible.

Members of staff deliver a full personal safety curriculum, as part of PSHE, to all pupils as appropriate to their developmental level and degree of understanding. This work is shared with parents who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages within the home.

Clifton High School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of pupils will always undertake their duties in a professional manner. Clifton High School recognises that there is a need to treat all pupils with respect when intimate care is given. No pupil should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Our Approach to Best Practice

All pupils who require intimate care are always treated respectfully; the pupil's welfare and dignity are of paramount importance.

Members of staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Child Protection and Safeguarding and Health and Safety training) and are fully aware of best practice.

Members of staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual pupils considering developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation.

There is careful communication with each pupil who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic, etc.) to discuss the pupil's needs and preferences. The pupil is aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.

As a basic principle pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Members of staff will encourage each pupil to do as much for themselves as they can. This may mean, for example, giving the pupil responsibility for washing themselves. In some instances, individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular pupils as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the pupil. These plans will include a full risk assessment to address issues such as moving and handling and the personal safety of the pupil.

Each pupil's right to privacy will be respected. Where possible, one pupil will be cared for by one adult, unless there is a sound reason for having two adults present, although other staff may be aware that this is taking place on a need-to-know basis.

Parents will be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements on a regular basis; a clear account of the agreed arrangements will be recorded on the pupil's care plan. The needs and wishes of pupils and parents will be carefully considered alongside any possible constraints; e.g. staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

Each pupil will have an assigned member of staff, usually their Class Teacher or Tutor, to act as an advocate to whom they will be able to communicate any issues or concerns that they may have about the quality of care they receive.

The Protection of Children

Where appropriate, all pupils are taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a pupil's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. they will immediately report concerns to the DSL or DSLs who will then ensure the pupil is seen by the School Nurse or Healthcare Practitioners. A clear written record of the marks, bruises, soreness etc. will be recorded on Cura. The location of the marks, bruises, soreness etc. will also be recorded, using the body map facility within Cura. A referral will be made to Children's Social Care if necessary. Parents will be asked for their consent or informed that a referral is necessary prior to it being made unless doing so is likely to place the pupil at greater risk of harm. Refer to the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

If a pupil becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a member of staff, the matter will be investigated and outcomes recorded. Parents will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution.

If a pupil makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures must be followed. Refer to the Child Protection and Safeguarding - Allegations Policy.