

2020

Intimate Care & Toileting



Salesbury Church of
England Primary
School

At **Salesbury Church of England Primary School** we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

We are committed to ensuring that all staff are responsible for the intimate care of children and young people and will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We are committed to ensuring that children are treated with sensitivity and respect and that all children are well-supported with their needs during this phase of their development.

What is 'Intimate care?'

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out a procedure that most children and young people carry out for themselves, but which some are too young to or are unable to do.

Intimate care tasks are associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene that demands direct or indirect contact with, or contact with intimate personal areas. Examples include support with dressing and undressing, helping someone use the toilet or washing intimate parts of the body, cleaning a pupil who has soiled him/herself or vomited. It is also associated with other accidents that may require a child to remove their clothes. These include changes required as a result of water play, messy play, sickness and weather. Very young or disabled pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

Practicalities

It is generally expected that most children will be toilet trained and out of nappies before they begin at school or nursery. However, we recognise that children will join Salesbury Church of England Primary school, having reached differing levels of independence and development in toileting and self-care. Therefore, it is inevitable that from time to time some children will have accidents and need to be attended to. In addition to this, children and young people with disabilities and medical conditions may also attend our school. A significant number of these pupils require adult assistance for their personal and intimate care needs. In order to help the children to become aware of their bodily needs and respond to them in time, those who wish to go to the toilet are always encouraged to do so.

Children in the EYFS have access to the toilet whenever they need to and are encouraged to be as independent as is age and developmentally appropriate. They are reminded at regular times to go to the toilet and are also encouraged to wash their hands after the toilet. In light of the current pandemic, toileting and handwashing are even more structured and supervised to ensure hygiene is even more carefully considered.

Role of Salesbury Staff

EYFS staff have access to a bathroom area with toilets and hand basin with access to warm water - two rooms have these facilities incorporated into the classroom area. There is also a stock of baby wipes*, plastic bags and disposable protective gloves and aprons for staff to use. If a child soils him/herself during school time, one member of the EYFS staff (teacher or Teaching Assistant) will follow the procedures:

- Adult to wear gloves, apron and given the pandemic, the visor provided
- Sensitively, remove the child's soiled clothes
- Clean skin (this usually includes bottom, genitalia, legs, feet)
- Flush away excess faeces as much as possible
- Double-bag used baby wipes in nappy sacks and dispose in lidded bin provided
- Provide clean underwear/clothes provided by home or school
- Seal soiled underwear in a nappy sack and place with any other soiled clothes in a plastic bag. Discretely give to parents to take home.
- Adult to dispose of used protective wear into the sealed bin and wash hands

At all times, the member of staff prioritises attention to the level of distress and comfort of the child. If the child is poorly, the member of staff will ask the office to telephone the parent/carer. Staff will use their best endeavours to clean a child so they can continue learning, on very rare occasions a child may become so soiled that they may need a shower or bath. As school does not have access to these facilities, parents may be contacted.

Our intention is that the child will never be left in wet or soiled clothing, and as soon as a member of staff is aware of the situation, she/he will clean the child.

It is intended that the child will never experience any negative disciplining, but only positive encouragement and praise for his/her endeavours to master this necessary skill. It is always our intention to avoid drawing attention to such events and to positively encourage the child in their efforts to gain these skills. We ask that parents dress their child in underwear rather than nappies/pull-ups so that children may continue their independence in toileting. We will encourage children to practise their self-help skills where possible e.g. dressing/undressing/washing hands. Pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible, according to their individual condition, understanding and abilities.

Individual care plans will be drawn up for any pupil requiring regular intimate care. Careful consideration will be given to individual situations to determine how many adults should be present during intimate care procedures. Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers and recorded on the care plan.

The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible, within the constraints of staffing, facilities and equal opportunities legislation.

Child Protection

Child Protection and Multi-Agency Child Protection procedures will be adhered to at all times. All members of staff carrying out intimate care procedures have enhanced DBS. Students should only do so under the supervision of a trained member of staff. It is not appropriate for volunteers to carry out intimate care procedures.

If a child makes an allegation about a member of staff, this will be investigated in accordance with agreed procedures.

Disabilities

The Governing Body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act which requires that any child with an impairment that affects his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

Role of parents/carers

We ask for parents to support their child in preparing for nursery school/reception by being as fully trained as possible and to work with school staff during times of transition, and the mastering of skills. We also ask that you ensure a change of underwear and a change of clothing (joggers/socks/top) is available, particularly if your child regularly needs a little extra support. Please ensure that you are happy with the baby wipes used by the school however you are welcome to provide an alternative. If you wish to do so, please place in your child's bag and send an email to confirm your request. Please send all emails to Mrs Reeve reeve@salesbury.lancs.sch.uk who will ensure the information is shared to all relevant staff.

* Currently, school are using Little Angels Baby Wipes supplied by Asda.

Policy to be reviewed in line with EYFS guidance, PHE and the needs of the school.

October 2020