

Featherstone High School



Intimate Care Policy

Prepared by:
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Intimate Care Policy

Introduction

Featherstone High School takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care. Meeting a student's intimate care needs is one aspect of safeguarding. 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 day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

This intimate care policy should be read in conjunction with the following FHS policies:

- Child protection policy
- Health and safety policy and procedures
- Policy for the administration of medicines
- Special Educational Needs policy
- Procedures and policy on use of force and restraint

Principles

The Governing Body will act in accordance with Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education' (DfES 2006) to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at this school.

Featherstone High School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. It is acknowledged that these adults are in a position of great trust. Featherstone High School recognises that there is a need to treat all children, whatever their age, gender, disability, religion or ethnicity, with respect when intimate care is given. The child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance. No child will be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain. Staff will work in close partnership with parent/carers and other professionals to share information and provide continuity of care.

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care can be defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas which most people usually carry out themselves but some children and young people are unable to do because of their physical difficulties or other special needs. Examples include care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks. It also includes supervision of children involved in intimate self-care.

Best Practice

Staff who provide intimate care at Featherstone High School will be trained to do so including in child protection and health and safety training in moving and handling and are fully aware of best practice regarding infection control, including the need to wear disposable gloves and aprons where appropriate.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation. As an additional safeguard, staff involved in meeting intimate care needs will not usually be involved with the delivery of

sex education to the same children, wherever possible. All children 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 his/herself as possible.

Children who require regular assistance with intimate care have written Individual Education Plans (IEP) or care plans agreed by staff, parents/carers and any other professionals actively involved, such as school nurses or physiotherapists. These plans include a full risk assessment to address issues such as moving and handling, personal safety of the child and the carer. Any historical concerns (such as past abuse) should be noted and taken into account.

Where a care plan or IEP is not in place, parents/carers will be informed the same day if their child has needed help with meeting intimate care needs (eg:has had an 'accident' and soiled him/herself). Every child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many carers might need to be present when a child needs help with intimate care. Adults who assist children one-to-one will be employees of the school and be CRB checked at the appropriate level.

It is not always practical for two members of staff to assist with an intimate procedure and also this does not take account of the child's privacy. However, a member of staff will inform another adult when they are going to assist a child with intimate care. Wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis; there will be a rota of carers known to the child who will take turns in providing care. This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, while at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers.

All staff will be aware of the school's confidentiality policy. Sensitive information will be shared only with those who need to know.

Record Keeping

It is good practice for a written record to be kept every time a student requires assistance with intimate care, including date, times and any comments such as changes in the child's behaviour. These records will be kept in the child's file and available to parents/carers and professionals on request.