

Personal/Intimate care Policy

Imperial Avenue is an inclusive school. We do not turn away children on the basis of their special needs and health needs unless the school environment is unsuitable on the grounds of health and safety.

School Mission Statement

"We value and respect the uniqueness of each child and work together to achieve success"

Children and their families should not be excluded or treated less favourably because they have personal care needs, for example wearing nappies, having occasional 'accidents' or needing ongoing support with personal care.

We will work to ensure that every child and young person can easily access care, play and learning experiences in our school.

Children develop at vastly different rates especially in the case of toilet training. Some children have an atypical pattern of development that affects toilet training, such as a communication difficulties.

We believe that children are entitled to:

- Be consulted about their personal care in accordance with their age and maturity
- Have personal care needs met by people they know and trust

We believe that parents/carers are entitled to:

- Be consulted about their child's personal care to ensure that it is sensitive to the families culture and matched to the child's needs
- The assurance that their child will, wherever possible, only receive personal care from people who know him/her well.
- Receive guidance and support in managing toilet training

We believe that staff are entitled to guidance or training to enable them to:

- Listen to children's preferences regarding personal care and respect their rights to privacy and dignity
- Meet children's individual needs
- Protect children and themselves from infection or inappropriate handling
- Feel informed and confident about their responsibilities for personal care with regard to current guidance and legislation

Parents are requested to sign an 'Agreement Form for Personal Care' so that staff would care for their children in this way if necessary (see copy attached Appendix 1)

Child Protection

Staff must discreetly inform a colleague that they are about to change a child's nappy. They should also let colleagues know of their return.

Where possible children are changed where there is a vision panel. SEND Unit Classroom changing area, DSP classroom changing area, reception class shower area and nursery cubicle may be used. Staff ensure a sign is on the door to ensure adults and children do not enter whilst a child is being changed.

There is no requirement that two members of staff should be present when a nappy is changed. Indeed this would contravene a child's right to dignity and privacy.

In Key Stage 1, children are encouraged to be as independent as possible including taking care of their own personal care needs. However in certain circumstances staff need to support them to clean up as swiftly as

possible. Often the older children prefer to use their own designated toilets, but if needed they can be taken to the private changing areas. These do not have vision panels.

When children have severe diarrhoea, stomach upset or vomiting parents and carers may be asked to collect a child from school and keep them off until such time as the upset has passed and the child is clear for 48 hours. This is to stop the spread of infection.

What equipment do we need?

This varies according to the individual child. The core list is:

- Changing mat
- Nappies of various sizes (provided by parents)
- Wet wipes or cotton wool (provided by parents)
- Single-use gloves in appropriate sizes
- Single-use disposable aprons
- Sealed Nappy bin
- Anti-bacterial spray
- Plastic bags to wrap soiled clothing in

Others could be:

- Spare clothing in various sizes
- Changing table, toilet step, toilet seat, attractive posters, adequate lighting
- A box containing changing equipment will be available in the medical room adjacent to Key Stage 1 toilets

A risk assessment should be carried out to minimise the risk of infection. Ensure all staff concerned sign the risk assessment.

The changing mat must be washed after use and ensure all staff understand the importance of wearing gloves, aprons and washing hands after the procedure.

Disposable nappies, gloves and aprons should be put in a tied plastic bag and disposed of in the appropriate bins.

Staff should thoroughly disinfect and clean the area and any equipment that has been soiled during the incident.

It is vital that all members of staff, following a clear management lead, are positive in their attitude to personal care. As with all emotional experiences, children benefit from acceptance of their feelings and an empathic and solution-focused response.

All settings have a duty of care to their children. Attending to personal needs falls into this category.

While there is no duty on teachers and school support staff to change nappies or pants you may wish to volunteer.

Partnership with Parents/Carers

- Partnership with parents is important in all areas of a child's development
- Parents should be encouraged to contribute information to school about their child's progress with personal care and, as with all developmental areas, plans for progress should be agreed together
- The child's health visitor or school nurse can offer support and advice to parents on toilet training

Staff guidance for changing nappies or helping children with intimate and personal care

1. We aim to.....

- Demonstrate our commitment to ensuring children's safety, welfare and wellbeing
- Outline how we cooperate with the City Council's Safeguarding Procedures
- Make sure all staff understand and have access to the procedures
- Achieve a consistency throughout the school in how we follow school procedures re: personal care
- Provide guidance to be followed by adults working at Imperial as employees
- Help create a safe and supportive environment which will assist any children who need personal/intimate care

When a child is admitted to the school we will discuss with parents/carers any needs, including personal/intimate, their child may have. It is at this stage in the admissions process that parents/carers are asked to sign a 'Personal Care Agreement Form'.

For three year olds this usually happens prior to admission e.g. at the welcome meeting or settling-in visit. Procedures are explained and parents reassured that the designated adults are aware of protocols.

Parents are advised to maintain a routine with their child at home which will continue the routines at school and aim for the child to become toilet trained as appropriate.

Parents are informed if their child has had an accident and needed to be cleaned up at the end of the school day.

Guidance to Adults in School – Vulnerability

1. Context

When we are working with children we ourselves are vulnerable. We want to respond sensibly and sensitively to the children and their needs but we must avoid putting ourselves in situations where our own actions could be misinterpreted.

Staff must exercise careful judgement at all times and should be particularly aware of how their actions can be perceived.

You must always alert a colleague if you are changing a child's nappy or helping an older child to clean up if they are soiled or wet.

2. Which staff will provide personal /intimate care?

Class teachers and Teaching Assistants may all be identified as bona fide designated persons. Students and volunteers are **not** allowed to be part of these procedures. In an emergency situation another member of the permanent staff may need to carry out personal care.

3. Procedures

- a. A child makes known they need help or a member of staff notices there is a need for the child to be cleaned
- b. The designated adult alerts another adult that they need to clean up a child
- c. The child is accompanied to an appropriate place such as the changing cubicle in the nursery, the accessible toilet/class toilet in reception classes, the changing area in the DSP classroom or SEND UNIT, the Key Stage 1 toilets or medical room in Key Stage 1.

The adult must wear protective gloves and a disposable apron

- d. Clothing is carefully removed trying to keep soiled mess away from the child's skin
- e. If possible, and the child is able to, they are asked to clean themselves
- f. If this is not possible or the child is too distressed the staff member uses baby wipes to clean the soiled area of skin as gently as possible being responsive to signals/words of distress
- g. As far as possible the dignity of the child is preserved and the child reassured
- h. Clean nappy/pull ups/underwear and clothing are given and the child encouraged to get dressed as independently as possible. Ensure the child's hands are washed
- i. As quickly as possible the child is returned to their class/activity
- j. Soiled clothing is bagged and returned to the family the same day with a brief verbal explanation. Solid messes, disposable gloves and soiled wipes are put into a bag, tied up and placed in the appropriate bin. The adult must wash their hands
- k. Where a child is very distressed staff may need to telephone the family and request a family member come to school to clean and change the child or alternatively take the child home
- l. Parents are requested to return school clothing after washing

Staff should exercise discretion when supervising or entering children's toilets; however it is necessary to enter the toilets on occasions to supervise behaviour and check children are safe.

4. Allegations of abuse

Children can be subjected to abuse by those that work with them in a school setting. The procedures in the school's Child protection and Safeguarding policy must be followed. These are designed to ensure that if allegations of abuse are made, or there is a suspicion about the conduct of a member of staff, enquiries are made in order that children are protected. All allegations or suspicions of abuse by a professional staff member or volunteer are taken very seriously and treated in accordance with safeguarding procedures.

5. The Head teacher's role

- To ensure families, school staff and governors are aware of this policy
- To ensure the policy, procedures and protocols are maintained
- To ensure staff have appropriate training
- To ensure equipment is fit for purpose, safely maintained and available for use
- To respond to allegations of child abuse.

6. Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for adhering to school policies. Staff are responsible for alerting the Head teacher, Office Manager or Premises Officer if equipment is damaged or faulty.

7. Monitoring the Policy

The Head teacher will have day to day responsibility for the policy and will ensure that it is reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team, in consultation with staff. Changes to the policy will be made in the light of the annual review or changes in Local Authority or Department for Education policy. Governors will be consulted on any significant changes.

Imperial Avenue Infant School

Agreement form for Personal Care

Child's full name: _____ **DoB:** _____

Please indicate if your child is allergic/sensitive to any of the following and provide us with details such as the name of the product etc.

Baby wipes _____

Soap _____

Liquid Soap _____

Latex gloves _____

Any other information _____

It is important that Parents/Carers keep school informed of any changes re potential allergies.

If you require a copy of the school Personal Care Policy, please see the school office.

I have read the school Personal Care Policy and I give my permission for staff to meet the personal care needs of my child as necessary whilst they are in school.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
Parent/Carer

Name in Capitals: _____