

ST MARY'S COLLEGE BRIGHT SPARKS & EARLY YEARS DEPARTMENT

INTIMATE CARE POLICY

Statement of Intent

At St Mary's Early Years Department, we believe that all of our children need contact with familiar carers to ensure they can grow and develop socially and emotionally. At times children need to be cuddled, encouraged, held and offered physical reassurance.

Intimate care routines are essential throughout the day to meet children's basic 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. This may include nappy changing, supporting children with toileting, changing clothes and giving first aid treatment and specialist medical support, where required.

Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of safeguarding issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at St. Mary's College Early Years Department work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible.

St. Mary's College Early Years Department is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all children during intimate care routines and to safeguard them against any potential harm as well as ensuring the staff member involved is fully supported and able to perform their duties safely and confidently. We aim to fulfil our statement of intent with the following actions:

- Promoting consistent and caring relationships through the key person system in the nursery and ensuring all parents understand how this works.
- Ensuring all staff undertaking intimate care routines have suitably enhanced DBS checks and follow up suitable person checks
- Training all staff in the appropriate methods for intimate care routines and arranging specialist training where required, i.e. first aid training, manual handling training, specialist medical support if required
- Ensuring all new staff, through inductions, are fully aware of all nursery procedures relating to intimate care routines and practice
- Working closely with parents on all aspects of the child's care and education. If a child requires specific support, the nursery will arrange a meeting with the parent to discuss all the relevant information relating to this to enable the staff to care for the child fully and meet their individual needs.
- Ensuring all staff have an up to date understanding of the Nursery Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2024

- Training all staff in how to protect children from harm, identifying signs and symptoms of abuse and how to raise these concerns as set out in the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.
- Operating a Whistleblowing policy to help staff raise any concerns about their peers or managers; and helping staff develop confidence in raising worries as they arise in order to safeguard all of the children in the nursery.
- Conducting working practice checks on all aspects of nursery operations to ensure that procedures are working in practice and all children are supported fully by all of the staff in the Early Years Department. This includes intimate care routines.
- Conducting regular risk assessments on all aspects of the nursery operation including intimate care and regarding the safeguards in place.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed according to the Support Staff Handbook and the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and Procedures. Ofsted regulations will be adhered to and the Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership, <https://seftonscp.org.uk> will be contacted.

If any parent or member of staff has concerns or questions about intimate care procedures or individual routines, please see the Head of Early Years at the earliest opportunity.

Guidance has been taken from:

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five, for group and school-based providers (Published 8 December 2023 Effective 04 January 2024)
Keeping Children Safe in Education Statutory Guidance September 2024

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