Bishop Monkton C of E Primary School

EYFS Safeguarding Children – Personal Care Policy

Policy Statement

This policy is primarily to provide guidance for the toileting needs of children in the EYFS including issues such as toilet training, incontinence and toilet accidents. However, personal care also includes helping a child, for reasons of age, illness or disability, with eating or drinking, or in connection with toileting, washing, bathing and dressing. It may also be useful in dealing with other incidents that may require a child to remove their clothes. These include changes required as a result of water play, messy play, sickness, weather etc.

The school has an obligation to meet the needs of all children regardless of their stage of personal development in the same way as we would meet the individual needs of children at different stages of linguistic, cognitive, social, physical and behavioural/emotional development. Children should not be excluded from participating in activities if they are not toilet-trained. We work with parents towards toilet training unless there is a medical or other developmental reason why this may not be appropriate at the time. We see toilet training as a self-care skill that children have the opportunity to learn, with the full support and non-judgemental concern of adults.

The school will share policy and procedures for dealing with children's general toileting needs with parents or carers. It is important that there is a positive dialogue between home and school about strategies in use with the child so that these can be reinforced as appropriate

Principles

It is the right of the child to be treated with sensitivity and respect, and in such a way that their experience of personal care is a positive one. As far as possible the child should be allowed to exercise choice and should be encouraged to have a positive image of their body.

There should be recognition that toileting support can involve risks for both the child and any adults in attendance.

Procedures: Nursery

In Nursery we recognise that children will join us having reached differing levels of independence and development in toileting and self-care:

Children's nappies/ pull up are changed mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Children are also changed whenever the need arises, we do not leave them in wet or soiled nappies or clothing.

Changing areas are warm and there are safe areas to lay children on if they need to have their bottoms cleaned.

Each child has their own nappies/pull-ups (which are supplied by the parents) accessible in the changing area. Wipes are provided by nursery and are sensitive skin wipes.

Gloves and aprons are put on before changing commences and the areas are prepared.

All staff are familiar with the hygiene procedures and carry them out when changing nappies or pull- ups.

Nappies and pull-ups are disposed of hygienically. Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to take home.

Young children are not left in soiled or wet nappies, pull-ups or pants as we have a duty of care towards children's needs and this could be interpreted as neglect.

Changing area is left clean and ready for the next child.

Children are encouraged to take an interest in using the toilet, they may just want to sit on the toilet at first.

Older children can use the toilets whenever they have the need to and are encouraged to be as independent as is age and developmentally appropriate.

Children are reminded at regular times to go to the toilet.

Children are encouraged to wash their hands and have soap and paper towels to hand.

A record of nappy/ pull up changes is kept with the following information: Child's name, time, wet/ soiled, adult's initials and any other information that may need to be monitored or passed on to parents.

Napping

In nursery the very young children may still require a daily nap.

Parents will be consulted on the length of nap they would like their child to take.

This will be facilitated in either a drop back pushchair or travel cot.

If the weather is conducive the children will nap outside in the fresh air, sufficiently wrapped up according to the time of year.

The children will be checked on every 10-15 minutes.

A record will be kept with the following information: Child's name, time they fall asleep and wake up.

Reception class

In reception class we have an expectation that children will:

Know when they need to go to the toilet.

Know how to use the toilet for themselves.

Be reasonably effective at cleaning themselves after using the toilet.

Children can use the toilets whenever they have the need to and are encouraged to be independent.

Children are reminded at regular times to go to the toilet- e.g. after fruit break, before and after lunch, before leaving the building.

Children are encouraged to wash their hands and have soap and paper towels to hand.

Children are not be left in soiled or wet pants or clothes as the school has a duty of care towards children's needs and this could be interpreted as neglect.

All staff are familiar with the hygiene procedures and carry them out when changing children.

However, we recognise that children develop at different rates-

Some children will be engaged in fully developing this aspect of their self-care when they start school.

Some children will not have had the practice that they need to use the facilities available: this could include culturally different expectations of self-care.

Some children may start wetting or soiling themselves after they start school during the settling-in period. In these circumstances, staff will communicate sensitively with parents to determine if this is a temporary set-back (anxiety, arrival of new sibling, illness).

Some children will come to school with ongoing/specific physical or medical issues such as urinary tract infections or soiling difficulties. If the child requires a medical care plan, Local Authority policies on child protection and managing children's needs will be consulted.

Advice and Support

There are other professionals who can help with advice and support. Family Health Visitors and Community Nursery Nurses have expertise in this area and can support adults to implement toilet training programmes in the home. Health Care Professionals can also carry out a full health assessment in order to rule out any medical cause of continence problem. Parents are more likely to be open about their concerns for their child's learning and development and seek help if they are confident that they and their child are not going to be judged for the child's stage of development.

Sensitivity and Respect

The child should be spoken to by name and given explanations of what is happening. Privacy appropriate to the child's age and situation should be provided. The child should be encouraged to care for him/herself as far as possible. Items of good quality, appropriately sized spare clothing should be readily available.

The dignity of the child must be respected and so as much as can be kept confidential between child, school and parent is kept confidential.

Safeguarding Children and Adults

Anyone caring for children has a common law duty of care to act like any prudent parent. Staff ensure that children are healthy and safe at all times.

Adults dealing with personal care of a child will be employees of the school and will have undergone regulatory employment checks in accordance with Government and EYFS requirements.

All staff are aware of the school's protocol and procedures.

All staff have received appropriate training and will receive support where necessary.

All toileting incidents are reported to parents and any concerns or issues are discussed.

Leaving a child in soiled or wet clothing for any length of time, even if waiting for the arrival of a parent or carer, could be interpreted as a form of abuse.

The normal process of cleaning a child should not raise child protection concerns, and there are no regulations that indicate that a second member of staff must be available to supervise the process to ensure that abuse does not take place. DBS checks are carried out to ensure the safety of the children with staff employed by the school. If there is known risk of false allegation by a child or parent then a single member of staff should not clean a child unsupervised. Members of staff must ensure that they do not change or clean a child in a room alone with the door closed. We may need to wash a child at Nursery if they are heavily soiled.

Health and Safety

In the case of a child accidentally wetting, soiling or being sick whilst on the premises: Staff should wear disposable gloves and aprons to deal with the incident.

We provide flushable wipes and encourage the child to use them and to wash the private parts of their body.

Soiled clothing is double bagged and tied.

Hot water and soap should be available to wash hands as soon as the task is completed.

Bio-hazard kits are available and should be used as appropriate in line with the school's Health and Safety procedures.

Roles and Responsibilities

Parents and carers are made aware of policies and procedures related to intimate care and all specific instances related to their child. If it becomes evident that a child has an ongoing problem that requires regular intimate care intervention, the school will make arrangements with the parent/carer for the long term resolution of the problem. This is likely to include a care plan that involves the parent/carer directly as well as external reference to a Health Care professional.

Signed: Sally A Cowling – Headteacher

Ashlea Costelloe – Chair of Governors

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