FROEBEL HOUSE SCHOOL
INTIMATE CARE/TOILETING POLICY

At Froebel House School we do not discriminate against any child or adult on the grounds of race, disability, gender, age, gender reassignment, pregnancy, maternity, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. We embrace the individuality of all our community members and comply fully with the Equality Act 2010.

What is 'Intimate care'

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive 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 (underwear), changing incontinence pads and nappies, 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.

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 Froebel House 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, an increasing number of children and young people with disabilities and medical conditions are being included in mainstream settings. 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 allowed to go. Although they are encouraged as they progress through the school to use the toilet during break times. 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.

At Froebel House School we understand that children do have 'accidents', especially in lower classes, and such 'accidents' are treated with respect, kindness and dignity. Staff will always encourage children to be as independent as possible. Where a child is physically capable, staff will provide verbal guidance and reassurance to allow the child to clean and change themselves. Physical assistance will only be provided to ensure basic hygiene standards are met or when the child is visibly distressed or unable to complete the task alone.

Sufficient disposable resources should be to hand – disposable gloves; latex

powder-free gloves, etc.. and surfaces should be wiped down after each procedure and hands washed thoroughly. Facilities and equipment needs to be left in a safe, clean condition.

If a child soils him/herself during school time, one member of staff (teacher, teaching assistant, practitioner, lunchtime supervisor) will help the child while another member of staff is on hand as per Safeguarding protocol:

- Remove their soiled clothes
- Clean skin (this usually includes bottom, genitalia, legs and feet)
- Dress in the child's own clothes or those provided by the school
- Wrap soiled clothes in plastic bags and give to parents to take home.

At all times the member of staff pays attention to the level of distress and comfort of the child. If the child is ill the member of staff will telephone the parent/carer. In the event a child is reluctant and finally refuses, the parent/carer will be contacted immediately to seek collection. Our intention is that the child will never be left in soiled clothing, but as soon as a member of staff is aware of the situation, she/he will clean the child. The member of staff responsible will check the child regularly and ensure that he/she is clean before leaving to go home.

<u>Guidance relating specifically to pupils with an Intimate Care Plan</u>

1. In order to ensure that intimate care is provided with dignity and respect, school staff should plan carefully liaising with the pupil and family.

2. When drawing up the Intimate Care Plan, the views of the pupil, parents/carers and staff will be taken into account and recorded.

3. Any appropriate equipment necessary for the Intimate Care Procedure will be identified and resourced by the appropriate agency (e.g. Health Agencies).

4. Staff working with pupils requiring intimate care procedures will have enhanced DBS disclosures, and access to training in child protection procedures as well as in moving and handling where appropriate.

5. Staff should not attempt to carry out any procedure for which they have not received training and/or advice. The school should ensure that sufficient staff have the necessary training to cover for staff absence.

6. It is expected that sufficient personal articles e.g. nappies/pads will be provided by the parents/carers.

7. The Intimate Care Plan should be reviewed regularly depending upon the development of the pupil or if there have been any changes in therapeutic or medical needs. It should be reviewed at least annually.

8. Consideration will be given to the pupil's intimate care needs when planning a school trip or residential. The school will identify the pupil's needs and requirements and the facilities available. It will also consider what equipment/resources will need to be transferred or transported. When planning school trips all reasonable steps will be made to include pupils who require intimate care. This will be demonstrated through the risk assessments for the school trip.

Internal Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:-

- Child Protection & Safeguarding
- Special Educational Needs & Disability
- Supporting Children with Medical Needs
- Health & Safety
- Safer Recruitment
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National Guidance

The following national guidance should also be referred to:

- DfE: Keeping children safe in education 2026 Statutory guidance for schools and colleges - 2026
- DfE: Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions. Statutory guidance – August 2017

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