



Freeland Pre-school

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Freeland Pre-school is a Registered Charity [No: 1015592]

Personal and Intimate Care Policy

Statement of intent

Freeland pre-school believes that the intimate care of children cannot be separated from other aspects of their learning and development. We do not discriminate against children who have not reached a stage where they can manage their own personal hygiene and as such welcome all children to participate in the pre-school, and provide appropriate support for each on an individual basis.

Aim

- To safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- To provide guidance and reassurance to staff whose contracts include intimate care.
- To assure parents and carers that staffs are knowledgeable about personal care and that their individual concerns are taken into account.
- To remove barriers to learning and participation, protect from discrimination, and ensure inclusion for all children and young people as pupils and students.

'**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.

'**Personal Care**' generally carries more positive perceptions than intimate care. Although it may often involve touching another person, the nature of this touching is more socially acceptable, as it is less intimate and usually has the function of helping with personal presentation and hence is regarded as social functioning. These tasks do not invade conventional personal, private or social space to the same extent as intimate care and are certainly more valued as they can lead to positive social outcomes for people. Children and young people may require help with eating, drinking, washing, dressing and toileting.

Method

- Wherever possible the key person will provide personal and intimate care.
- All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.
- Staff that provide intimate care are fully aware of best practice.
- Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children, taking into account developmental changes
- There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care, in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic, etc) to discuss the child's

needs and preferences. The child is aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.

- As a basic principle, 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 themselves as they can.
- Each 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's needs help with intimate care. Where possible, one child will be cared for by one adult, unless there is a sound reason for having two adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented.
- If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc she/he will immediately report concerns to the designated member of staff for safeguarding. A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred on if necessary. (See Safeguarding Children Policy)
- If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded.
- Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process, in order to reach a resolution. The needs of the child will remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.