

Earlscliffe (Sussex Summer Schools Ltd)

INTIMATE CARE POLICY

Earlscliffe endeavours to ensure that all staff responsible for the intimate care of pupils will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all pupils with respect when intimate care is given. No pupil should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain. Staff who work with children and young people realise that the issue of intimate care is a difficult one and will require staff to be respectful of children's needs.

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene. Examples include care associated with grooming, illness, continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing or bathing. Pupils' dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff that provide intimate care to pupils have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff work in partnership with parents to provide continuity of care to pupils wherever possible. Pupils at Earlscliffe will participate in personal safety discussions, as part of Personal, Social and Health Education, which is delivered in a manner appropriate to their developmental level and degree of understanding. This work is shared with parents who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages within the home.

Basic Components of good practice

All pupils who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance. Staff who provide intimate or invasive care are fully aware of best practice. Staff adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual pupils taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation. Wherever possible staff who are involved in the intimate care of pupils will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex education to their pupils as an additional safeguard, other than General health promotion awareness notice boards which may include sexual health content.

There is careful communication with each pupil who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic, etc.) to discuss the pupil's needs and preferences. The pupil is aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.