

123 After School Club

INTIMATE CARE POLICY

In the context of the 123 Club 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 from the genitals. Examples include care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing.

The dignity of the children within the care of the 123 Club 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 Children issues.

Staff are aware that their behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at the Club work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible.

The 123 Club is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times.

The 123 Club recognizes that staff must treat all children with respect when intimate care is given.

No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Our Approach to Best Practice

All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Safeguarding Children)

Staff will be supported to adopt their best practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation.

Staff are aware that there must be careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic...) to discuss the child's needs and preferences. The child is aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reason 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 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.

No adult will attend to a child's intimate care needs alone, there will always be another adult in full sight.

Wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis. Staff will decide who is best suited to tend to each child based on the child's familiarity and comfort with each adult. This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, while at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers.

Signed M. Scott Oct 2024