CAPITAL SCHOOL BAHRAIN

EYFS Intimate Care Policy

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1. Introduction

At Capital School Bahrain, we are committed to ensuring the welfare, dignity, and privacy of every child. We recognise the importance of providing appropriate care for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), especially regarding intimate care needs. This policy outlines the procedures and expectations for intimate care within our Nursery, FS1, and FS2 classes, ensuring these practices align with the cultural expectations in Bahrain.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff and parents involved in the intimate care of children in the EYFS department, ensuring that procedures are followed with respect to the child's individual developmental needs and that the child's dignity and privacy are maintained at all times.

3. Nursery (Nappies/Diapers and Toilet Training)

- Children in the Nursery class may still be in nappies/diapers and are likely going through the toilet training process.
- Staff will support each child's individual needs with sensitivity, encouraging toilet training in partnership with parents or caregivers.
- Staff will ensure that nappies/diapers are changed promptly and hygienically in designated changing areas.
- Parents will provide nappies/diapers, wipes, and any creams necessary for their child.
- When children are having their nappy/diaper changed, there must be two teaching members of staff in the changing room to safeguard both the children and staff.
- Staff will work with families to establish consistency between home and school, supporting children in becoming confident and independent in their toilet training journey.

4. FS1 (Toilet Trained with Support for Independence)

- Children entering FS1 must be fully toilet trained, meaning they can manage their toileting needs independently, including using the toilet, cleaning themselves using the water spray or tissue, and washing their hands without adult assistance.
- Where a child is unable to use the toilet independently, teachers are able to assist children verbally to help them with their toileting needs, but physical assistance is not permitted for safeguarding reasons.
- Staff will supervise and remind children to use the toilet as needed, particularly for hygiene habits such as washing hands after using the toilet.

- In cases of accidents, the teaching member of staff assisting the child must be observed by an additional member of staff to ensure safeguarding for both children and staff. This additional member of staff could include, but is not limited to: Miss Georgia Shaw (Head of EYFS), Ms Nisha (School Nurse), EYFS classroom teachers, and EYFS classroom teaching assistants.
- Parents must disclose their child's toileting progress. Where a child is not fully toilet trained, Capital School Bahrain reserves the right to request that the child remains at home until they are completely toilet trained.

5. FS2 (Full Independence in Toileting)

- Children in FS2 are expected to be fully independent in their toileting needs, including using the toilet, wiping, cleaning, flushing, and washing hands without assistance.
- Staff will encourage good hygiene habits and provide reminders when necessary but will not routinely assist with toileting unless there is a medical or exceptional need.
- In the event of an accident, staff will provide discreet support and ensure the child's privacy is respected. Parents will be informed if there are recurring issues.
- Where a child is not fully toilet trained, Capital School Bahrain reserves the right to request that the child remains at home until they are completely toilet trained.

6. Cultural Sensitivity and Respect

- Capital School Bahrain recognises the importance of aligning its intimate care practices with the cultural values and expectations of Bahrain. Staff will be mindful of these cultural sensitivities, including the use of water sprays for cleansing, and will ensure that these practices are respected while maintaining the safety and dignity of each child.

7. Emergency and Exceptional Circumstances

- In rare cases where a child requires temporary support with toileting due to medical reasons, injury, or other exceptional circumstances, parents must provide medical documentation outlining the child's needs.
- The school will work with parents to develop an appropriate care plan, which may include temporary support from staff, additional equipment, or other accommodation.
- Any temporary support provided will be clearly documented, regularly reviewed, and communicated to all relevant staff to ensure the child's safety and well-being.

8. Staff Responsibilities

- All staff involved in intimate care will receive appropriate training and support to ensure they can confidently manage children's care needs.

- Staff will ensure that intimate care is provided in a manner that respects the child's privacy and maintains their dignity.
- Staff will always use gloves and follow hygienic practices when handling nappies/diapers or supporting children with toileting.
- Children will never be forced to use the toilet or engage in toileting practices they are uncomfortable with. Positive encouragement and a supportive approach will always be adopted.

9. Partnership with Parents

- Parents will be consulted and informed about their child's progress in toileting, and any specific needs or concerns will be discussed openly to ensure consistency between home and school.
- Parents must provide any necessary supplies (nappies/diapers, wipes, spare clothes) and inform the school of any medical conditions that may affect their child's toileting habits.

10. Safeguarding and Confidentiality

To ensure the safety of both children and staff, all intimate care interactions must be conducted in a manner that protects the privacy and dignity of the child.

- Whenever possible, staff should not be alone with a child during intimate care. When assisting with accidents or providing support in the bathroom, a second staff member must be present to ensure transparency and safeguarding for both the child and staff member.
- Staff must maintain confidentiality regarding any intimate care incidents and only share relevant information with those who need to know for the child's well-being.

11. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if necessary to ensure it reflects best practices and meets the needs of the children in our care.

By implementing this policy, Capital School Bahrain aims to support children in developing independence while ensuring their care needs are met in a safe and respectful environment.