

# D . A . R . E

Discovery   Adventure   Recreational   Educational  
Supporting SEN children to learn through play in a secure environment

## Procedures for the Personal Care of Pupils

At D.A.R.E. pupils who wear pads to support their individual continence needs are treated with the same care, respect and dignity that we would wish for ourselves or others that we care about. We recognise that not to do so would be paramount to neglect and therefore not in keeping with our Safeguarding Policy and procedures.

Pupil's pads are changed according to the individual personal care needs of each pupil in order to maximise comfort. These times are ascertained by the pupil's parents/carers and class teams who know the pupils well. We expect that there is a **minimum change** each afternoon in recognition of long journeys home. We expect the term 'pads' to be used rather than 'nappies' for all pupils regardless of their age.

There would often be a morning change and then additional changes if required. If parents specifically request more frequent changes then we will ask them to send in extra pads and respect this request by acting accordingly.

Changes are performed by D.A.R.E. staff twice per day.

Pupils should **always be taken from their chairs** using **physical support equipment**, for example a hoist, by trained staff ( a 'first' with a 'second' trained member of staff is acceptable)

If the pad is then deemed to be **dry** and **clean** on close inspection and it is **not the afternoon** the staff may decide not to change the pad. If there is any indication of wetting, soiling or menstrual discharge the pad will need to be changed.

Sanitary pads will **always be changed** and on the occasions of periods we would expect many more changes during the day. We encourage our parents to communicate with us if a pupil has started a period in order to heighten awareness of potential more frequent changes being required.

At D.A.R.E. all support staff are trained in all aspects of intimate care including safeguarding and safe handling. In order to respect age and culture after puberty staff, wherever possible, will only care intimately for an individual of the same sex. However, in certain circumstances this principle may need to be waived where failure to provide appropriate care would result in negligence.

Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers daily during on pick up.

There are certain practices which we would **never do unless** it prevents that pupil from **greater harm or discomfort** at that time (This would usually be when **not within** the Playgroup premises and where facilities are not available).

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These practices are:

- Changing or checking pads in a public area
- **Checking** the wetness of the pad, by putting hands inside clothing.
- Speaking **about** that pupil's personal care in front of them unless it is to the pupil in order to cue them into the next action during the process
- Discussing the contents of the pad either to the pupil or another member of staff
- Displaying publicly bowel, bladder or menstrual information or frequency

*These Procedures are part of our Policy for intimate Care and linked to our Safeguarding Policy.*

Review November 2024