

Oakfield School

33. Privacy and Dignity Policy



To be Reviewed:	May 2021
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POLICY STATEMENT

Oakfield School provides a safe and consistent framework for all of our young people. Our staff are committed to our core values of privacy, dignity, independence, choice, rights, fulfilment and self-determination, and respecting and upholding young people's rights. These principles form a key emphasis within all staff's induction, training and development.

Procedures:

- Staff should always knock before entering a young person's room. Only if the well-being of the young person is at risk should they enter without permission and then, if possible, with another member of staff.
- When offering support with any type of personal care, the young person's dignity must be maintained.
- Staff should respect the right of choice, and in circumstances where this may affect the wellbeing of the young person all restrictions must be documented, risk assessed, agreed by parents/carers.
- Whilst all staff in the residential are committed to providing all young people with choice and opportunities for independence, it is important to note that all young people in the residential provision are not considered to be "Gillick Competent", and as such cannot give or withdraw consent for their own treatment.
- The Head of Care/Residential Manager must endorse any restrictions to the privacy of individual pupils. Independence should be promoted and all risks involved documented clearly.

Personal Possessions

- There is adequate provision for the storage of young person's clothes and bedding. Young person's clothing is satisfactorily stored and issued to the right child following any laundry.
- Young people are able to obtain necessary personal and stationery items whilst resident at the school.
- Reasonable protection is provided for young people's personal possessions, of those pupils who are accessing the residential provision. However, possessions of significant value are discouraged as loss or damage may occur and the school will not accept responsibly for replacing or refunding the cost of these items.
- Young people's belongings are searched only on grounds which are explained to the young person concerned and following guidance for screening, searching and confiscation in schools, in which where failure to carry out the search might put at risk the welfare or the young person or others. See Policy No. 21 – Room Searches.

Policies and Procedures are in place to meet the National Minimum Care Standards for Residential Special Schools.

Screening and Searching and Confiscation – Guidance Schools
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf

This Policy was reviewed May 2020.

Signed:

Lee Morfitt (Chair of Governors)