



BDMAT

Birmingham Diocesan
Multi-Academy Trust



Newton Regis C of E Primary School

Austrey C of E Primary School



Intimate Care Policy

Owner: Headteacher

Adopted: Autumn 2020

Version: 1

Next review date: Autumn 2023

Sign off signatory: Chair of LAB

Rationale

It is our intention to develop independence in each child, however there will be occasions when help is required. Our Intimate Care policy has been developed to safeguard children and staff. It is one of a range of specific policies that contribute to our Safeguarding of pupils. The principles and procedures apply to everyone involved in the intimate care of children.

This policy should also be read in conjunction with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Staff Behaviour and Social Media policy

Intimate care may be defined as any activity that is required to meet the personal needs of an individual child on a regular basis or during a one-off incident. Such activities can include:

- toileting
- feeding
- oral care
- washing
- changing clothes
- first aid and medical assistance
- supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care

Parents have a responsibility to advise the school of any known intimate care needs relating to their child.

Principles of Intimate Care

The following are the fundamental principles of intimate care upon which our policy guidelines are based. Every child has the right to: -

- be safe
- personal privacy
- be valued as an individual
- be treated with dignity and respect
- be involved and consulted in their own intimate care to the best of their abilities
- express their views on their own intimate care and to have such views considered
- have levels of intimate care that are appropriate and consistent.

School Responsibilities

It is preferable that children are toilet trained before starting in Foundation Stage. However, no child will be excluded from participating in the Foundation Stage who may, for any reason, not yet be toilet trained and who may still be wearing nappies or equivalent. To facilitate this:

Work will be carried out with parents towards toilet training, unless there are medical or other developmental reasons why this may not be appropriate at the time.

Toilet training is seen as a self-care skill that children have the opportunity to learn with the full support and non-judgmental concern of adults.

All members of staff working with children are checked and vetted to ensure they are safe to do so. Only those members of staff who are familiar with the intimate care policy and all school safeguarding documentation are involved in the intimate care of children.

Anticipated intimate care arrangements which are required on a regular basis are agreed between the school and parents and, when appropriate and possible, by the child.

In such cases, consent forms are signed and stored in the child's file. (Appendix 2)

Intimate care arrangements for any pupil who requires this support on a regular basis will be reviewed termly.

The views of all relevant parties should be sought and considered to inform future arrangements. Any amendments to the arrangements should be recorded and made available for all parties involved.

Only in an emergency would staff undertake any aspect of intimate care that has not been agreed by the parents. This act of intimate care would be reported to a member of staff and parents at the earliest possible time following the event.

If a staff member has concerns about a colleague's intimate care practice he or she must report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Guidelines for Good Practice

All children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect. These guidelines are designed to safeguard children and staff. They apply to every member of staff involved with the intimate care of children.

Young children and children with special educational needs can be especially vulnerable. Staff involved with their intimate care need to be particularly sensitive to their individual needs.

It is important to bear in mind that some forms of assistance can be open to misinterpretation.

1. Involve the child in the intimate care

Try to encourage a child's independence as far as possible in his or her intimate care. Instruction should be given to allow a child to clean themselves as far as possible. Where a situation renders a child fully dependent, talk about what is going to be done and, where possible, give choices. If a child requires assistance in changing a soiled nappy this should be carried out with the child in a standing position. Check your practice by asking the child or parent about any preferences while carrying out the intimate care.

2. Treat every child with dignity and respect and ensure privacy appropriate to the child's age and situation.

Care should be carried out within hearing range of another member of staff. Toilet door should remain open.

3. Make sure practice in intimate care is consistent.

As a child may have multiple carers a consistent approach to care is essential.

Effective communication between all parties ensures that practice is consistent.

4. Be aware of your own limitations

Only carry out activities you understand and feel competent with. If in doubt, ask. Some procedures must only be carried out by members of staff who have been formally trained and assessed.

5. Promote positive self-esteem and body image.

The approach you take to intimate care can convey lots of messages to a child about their body worth. Your attitude to a child's intimate care is important. Keeping in mind the child's age, routine care can be both efficient and relaxed.

6. If you have any concerns you must report them.

If you observe any unusual markings, discolouration or swelling report it immediately to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

If a child is accidentally hurt during intimate care or misunderstands or misinterprets something, reassure the child, ensure their safety and report the incident immediately to the designated teacher. Report and record any unusual emotional or behavioural response by the child. A written record of concerns must be made available to parents and kept in the child's personal file.

Working with Children of the Opposite Sex

There is positive value in both male and female staff being involved with children. Ideally, every child should have the choice for intimate care but the current ratio of female to male staff means that assistance will more often be given by a woman.

The intimate care of boys and girls can be carried out by a member of staff of the opposite sex with the following provisions:

- when intimate care is being carried out, all children have the right to dignity and privacy, i.e. they should be appropriately covered
- if the child appears distressed or uncomfortable when personal tasks are being carried out, the care should stop immediately. Try to ascertain why the child is distressed and provide reassurance
- report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Person and make a written record
- parents must be informed about any concerns.

Communication with Children

It is the responsibility of all staff caring for a child to ensure that they are aware of the child's method and level of communication. Depending on their maturity and levels of stress children may communicate using different methods – words, signs, symbols, body movements, eye pointing, etc. To ensure effective communication:

- make eye contact at the child's level
- use simple language and repeat if necessary
- wait for response
- continue to explain to the child what is happening even if there is no response
- treat the child as an individual with dignity and respect.

Appendix 1

WHOLE SCHOOL

Procedures for when a child has soiled themselves (e.g. due to a particular medical condition/ to severe cases of diarrhoea) and is unable to clean themselves independently:

- Staff to contact parent/ carer immediately to request permission to assist the child to clean themselves.
- If staff are unable to contact the parent/ carer, then staff will support the child to clean themselves and make them as comfortable as possible (according to the above guidelines in this policy).
- In both of the above cases, a written account of the situation and actions taken must be produced and given to the Headteacher. This record will be kept in the school's safeguarding file.

Procedures for prevention of infection:

- Staff will wear disposable gloves, aprons and masks (if the child is soiled) whilst changing.
- These items will be disposed of in the hygienic nappy disposal bin.
- The changing mat and area will be cleaned after use with antibacterial wipes.
- Hot water and hand wash is available to wash hands immediately after a child has been changed.
- Paper towels are available for drying hands.
- Antibacterial hand gel is available in the changing area.

Appendix 2

Newton Regis C of E Primary School

Intimate Care Permission form for soiling

Pupil's Personal Details	
Full Name:	
Date of Birth:	Parent/Carer name:
Address:	

- In the event of my child having an accident in school and needing to be cleaned and changed, I give permission for a member of staff (teacher or classroom assistant) to clean and change him / her.

OR

- In the event of my child having an accident in school and needing to be cleaned, I would like to be contacted so that I can proceed to school.

I accept that if you are unable to contact myself or someone on the emergency contact list you will proceed to clean and change him / her as based on the procedures outlined in the "Intimate Care Policy"

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 2a

Austrey C of E Primary School

Intimate Care Permission form for soiling

Pupil's Personal Details	
Full Name:	
Date of Birth:	Parent/Carer name:
Address:	

- In the event of my child having an accident in school and needing to be cleaned and changed, I give permission for a member of staff (teacher or classroom assistant) to clean and change him / her.

OR

- In the event of my child having an accident in school and needing to be cleaned, I would like to be contacted so that I can proceed to school.

I accept that if you are unable to contact myself or someone on the emergency contact list you will proceed to clean and change him / her as based on the procedures outlined in the "Intimate Care Policy"

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Date: _____