



INTIMATE CARE POLICY

Rationale

Eastlea Primary School is responsible for the care of all children, whatever their needs or difficulties, including children who have an increased dependency and require practical support with their intimate care needs at school.

This school 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. We recognise the need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given and that no child should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or discomfort.

Staff at Eastlea recognise that intimate care is a high risk activity in terms of abuse and it is particularly important that there are guidelines on Intimate Care, both to protect those being cared for and the staff who care for the children's needs. We take the view that everyone is safer if expectations are clear and approaches are as consistent as possible.

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate Care is any care which involves supporting or carrying out a personal care activity (such as washing, toileting or cleaning after a toileting accident), that many children are able to carry out for themselves, but which some children are unable to do because of their young age, physical disabilities or special education needs, including learning needs, medical needs or conditions, or developmental issues.

In most cases, Intimate Care will involve procedures to support personal hygiene.

While most children will be toilet trained and out of nappies before they begin at school or nursery, it is inevitable from time to time that some children will have accidents and need to be attended to. In addition to this, an increasing number of children and young people have medical conditions or additional needs that result in their need for adult assistance for personal and intimate care tasks.

To ensure that consistent, respectful and supportive Intimate Care is given to any child requiring this level of support, Intimate Care is carefully managed and reviewed regularly by staff, parents/carers and outside agencies.

Guidelines

1. Children and their parents should have confidence in the staff

All staff involved in Intimate Care routines will have been police checked and will receive appropriate training to carry out this aspect of their work. Parents will receive a copy of the School's Intimate Care policy and will be offered an opportunity to discuss their child's needs with an appropriate member of staff.

2. Carers should be aware of the abilities of the child

The child should be enabled and encouraged, as far as is reasonably possible, to contribute to their own intimate care

3. Ensure privacy, appropriate to the child's age and gender

The school takes the view that the issue of privacy is important. Depending on the level of need, intimate care tasks will be completed by either one or two people.

4. Children have the right to be respected

Respect of the child's body and integrity should be included in all care procedures. Ideally, someone who has a positive relationship with the child should carry out intimate care tasks. Newer

members of staff should get to know the children in the classroom context before getting involved in Intimate Care tasks.

5. A strong focus should be evident on choice and decision making skills

Wherever appropriate, decision making should be an integral part of the process – e.g. Do you want to go to the toilet or not? Should we wash your hands or face first? Can I help fasten your trousers?

6. Pupils will be prepared and involved in what is going to happen

Staff will raise the child's awareness of the process. Objects of reference, symbols, signs, gesture and verbal explanation will be given as appropriate.

7. Intimate Care tasks are not an interruption to the timetable

These practices should be valued as part of each child's essential curriculum. They are an opportunity to develop independent and age-appropriate skills, increase dignity and to raise self-esteem.

8. Never do any task unless you are confident in your ability to do it

Never guess; ask a colleague to help.

9. If you are concerned – report it

Intimate Care tasks should never be approached light heartedly. If a child has soreness or something to cause you concern, follow School's Child Protection Procedures.

10. Health and Safety Issues

Barrier materials will always be used e.g. disposable gloves. Appropriate Lifting and Handling Procedures will be followed when necessary.

Resources

School will seek parental views on practices at home. Preferred materials will be used and parents will be encouraged to resource their child's needs whenever possible.

All changes of nappies etc. shall be recorded.

Policy written/updated January 2020 and reviewed annually.

Eastlea Intimate Care Policy : Parent/Carer Agreement Form



I agree to support the Intimate Care Policy and practice of Eastlea Primary School

Name of child:

Signature of Parent/Carer:

Date: