



Intimate Care Policy

Introduction

Largymore staff aim to safeguard the welfare of each child in our care. New Year 1 pupils are expected to be fully capable of looking after themselves with regard to toileting. If this is not the case we will support and encourage each child to become more independent in personal care. We recognise that some children may need assistance with changing and toileting from time to time and the well-being and dignity of the child will remain paramount at all times during any incident requiring intimate care.

Definition

Intimate Care may be defined as any activity required to meet the personal care needs of an individual child. Parents have a responsibility to advise staff of the intimate care needs of their child, and staff have a responsibility to work in partnership with children and parents.

Intimate care can include:

- Feeding
- Dressing/undressing
- Toileting
- Supervision of a child in intimate self-care

Responsibilities

The school will ensure that all Staff undertaking intimate care of children are familiar with and understand the intimate care policy within the context of their work.

Intimate care arrangements will be agreed by the school, parents/carers and the child (where appropriate).

Staff will not undertake any aspect of intimate care that has not been agreed by the school, parents/carers and the child (where appropriate).

Intimate care arrangements will be reviewed as required.

Guidelines for Good Practice

- ❖ Children should be involved in their own intimate care.

- ❖ Every child should be treated with dignity and respect, ensuring privacy appropriate to the child's age and situation.
- ❖ Practice in intimate care should be consistent.
- ❖ Any concerns regarding a child should be reported immediately.

Principles of Intimate Care

- ❖ Every child has the right to be safe
- ❖ Every child has the right to personal privacy
- ❖ Every child has the right to be valued as an individual
- ❖ Every child has the right to be treated with dignity and respect
- ❖ Every child has the right to be involved in and consulted about their own intimate care to the best of their abilities
- ❖ Every child has the right to express their views on their own intimate care and to have these views taken into account
- ❖ Every child has the right to have levels of intimate care that are as consistent as possible

Intimate Care Procedures - Wet Only

With these principles in mind the following intimate care procedures will be followed :-

- ❖ If a child needs a change of clothes he/she will be encouraged to change himself/herself and fresh clothing will be provided (This needs to be laundered and returned to school as soon as possible).
- ❖ If a child needs assistance he/she may be taken to the disabled toilet to maintain dignity and avoid a feeling of humiliation. The child will be talked through the procedure and reassured that he/she will not be left alone. Two members of staff will be present in line with Child protection guidelines.

- ❖ Where a child has a medical condition and requires intimate care in school parents will be asked to grant permission to allow an adult to assist with changing.
- ❖ When a more serious incident occurs we will contact home so that a parent can come and change their child themselves or take him/her home if the child is upset or unwell
- ❖ If a parent cannot be contacted we will endeavour to be as discreet as possible and sensitive to each child's needs (2 members of staff will be present as part of our 'Duty of Care' and to comply with Child Protection Guidelines) The child may be taken to the disabled toilet to maintain dignity and avoid a feeling of humiliation
- ❖ If, during an intimate procedure, staff notice any unusual markings, bruising, discolouration, swelling etc these will be notified to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mr Noble), or the Deputy Designated Teacher (Mrs Dunlop)
- ❖ If intimate care has been provided for a child the members of staff involved must complete an Intimate Care Record.

Soiled Pants

- ❖ If a child needs assistance he/she may be taken to the disabled toilet to maintain dignity and avoid a feeling of humiliation. They will be encouraged to clean and change themselves independently following step by step instructions given by a member of staff in attendance. (Two members of staff will be present).
- ❖ If a child is unable to clean or change soiled pants we will make contact with someone at home to come into school to change your child. Parents are expected to ensure that they keep the school informed of the contact numbers at which they, or a nominated adult can be contacted as and when required. They should make themselves available, if necessary to change their child at school, or in the event of an accident, to take their child to the hospital or administer medication.
- ❖ In extenuating circumstances where the child is experiencing repeated soiling issues each day and is under GP or incontinence clinic advice, a plan will be put in place in agreement with parents.
- ❖ If intimate care in relation to soiling has been provided for a child the members of staff involved must complete an Intimate Care Record.

Menstruation

- ❖ If a pupil has a period in school they can use the P7 bathroom where sanitary bins are available. We now have Period Dignity Legislation and period products are now available in school however feel free to send in your own if pupils prefer it. (see Deputy Designated teacher - Mrs Dunlop or our Period Dignity Champion Mrs Preshur)

Monitoring and Review

The policy and practices herein will be monitored by the Designated Teacher, Mr B Noble

This Policy will be reviewed every two years.

Next review date Dec 2022