

St. Peter's R.C. Primary School

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Intimate Care Policy

Introduction

St. Peter's RC Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We are committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for intimate care of children and young people will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times.

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves carrying out an invasive procedure that most children and young people carry out for themselves, but which some are unable to do. Intimate care tasks are associated with bodily functions and personal hygiene. Examples include support with dressing and undressing and changing nappies. Pupils with physical needs may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

The Governing Body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act which requires that any child with an impairment that affects his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against. We recognise that there is a need for children and young people to be treated with respect when intimate care is given. No child shall be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

Staff will work in close partnership with parents and carers to share information and provide continuity of care.

Aims

- To provide a sensitive system that provides privacy for the child and promotes self help skills and independence.
- To provide a support system for the protection of the staff.

Procedure for changing children who are wet/soiled

It is expected that children will be toilet trained and out of nappies before they begin at school or nursery. However, it is inevitable that from time to time some children will have accidents and need to be attended to. In addition to this an increasing number of children and young people with physical needs and medical conditions are being included in mainstream settings. A significant number of these pupils require adult assistance for their personal and intimate care needs.

In order to help the children to become aware of their bodily needs and respond to them in time, those who wish to go to the toilet are always allowed to go, although they are encouraged as they progress through the school to use the toilet during break times.

If a child has an accident, the following procedures will be followed:

- The child will be encouraged to change themselves.
- The child will be changed in a suitable place, which ensures privacy and dignity
- Whenever appropriate the child will be given clean clothes and will be encouraged to change themselves in the cubicle. Appropriate support will be given by staff
- The child will be encouraged to wipe themselves, if the child has a physical need, a member of staff will assist.
- Staff must wear disposable gloves whilst dealing with an incident
- Soiled nappies will be wrapped and placed in a hygiene disposal unit
- Soiled clothes will be wrapped then passed onto parents/carers
- Hands must be washed with hot water and soap as soon as the task is completed and dried with a paper towel

At all times the member of staff pays attention to the comfort of the child. If the child is ill the member of staff will telephone the parent/carer. In the event a child is reluctant and refuses to clean themselves, the parent/carer will be contacted immediately.

Our intention is that the child will never be knowingly left in wet / soiled clothing, as soon as a member of staff is aware of the situation, they will encourage the child to clean and change themselves.

Our approach to best practice for intimate care needs for children with physical difficulties:

- The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned.
- Where specialist equipment and facilities above that currently available in the school are required, every effort will be made to provide appropriate facilities in a timely fashion, following assessment by a Physiotherapist and/or Occupational Therapist.
- There is careful communication with any parent to discuss needs and preferences.
- Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children.
- Pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible, according to their individual condition and abilities
- The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible, within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.