



Ryhope Infant School Academy Intimate Care Policy

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Signed: 
Chair of Governors

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Ryhope Infant School Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all our children.

Introduction

Intimate care is any care which is associated with invasive procedures relating to bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene which demands direct or indirect contact with or exposure of intimate parts of the body, such as cleaning up after a child who has soiled themselves. In addition, some children may need help with dressing/undressing or using the toilet. Most children can carry out these functions themselves but it is recognised that some are unable to do so due to physical disability, learning difficulties, medical needs or needs arising from the child's stage of development. This Intimate Care Policy has been developed to safeguard children and staff and ensure good practice is followed. At Ryhope Infant School Academy all staff are checked with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and we are committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional and caring manner at all times. We believe that the intimate care of children cannot be separated from other aspects of their learning and development and we believe that every child has the right to feel safe and secure. We do not discriminate against children who have not reached a stage where they can manage their own personal hygiene and as such welcome all children to participate in our school and provide appropriate support for each child on an individual basis. We recognise the need to treat all children with respect and dignity when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

We aim to:

- Safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of all children and young people including those who may be more vulnerable.
- Provide guidance and reassurance to staff whose duties may include intimate care.
- To ensure all staff carrying out intimate care are provided with adequate training for their role eg Safeguarding training, Paediatric first aid qualification, H+S lifting and moving as appropriate.
- Assure parents and carers that staff are knowledgeable about personal care and that their child's individual needs and concerns are taken into consideration.
- Remove barriers to learning and participation, protect from discrimination and ensure inclusion for all children and young people within our setting.
- To provide appropriate facilities and equipment for children's care.
- To ensure anticipatory duties are rigorously monitored in conjunction with the settings key policies and procedures eg Child Protection Policy, Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy, H+S policy, Risk Assessments and Complaints procedures.

Our approach to Best Practice

- Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child. We will work with parents of a child who requires intimate care to establish a preferred procedure for supporting the child.
- Where these procedures may require specialist training, we will seek out training for the staff who will be involved in a child's care, ensuring that the child's key-person and at least one other member of staff accesses the training.

- Staff members who are known to the child will take on the responsibility for changing child. Where possible the staff member who is involved will ask the child for permission to assist.
- The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy and independence that is possible given their age and ability.
- Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many carers might need to be present when a child is toileted. Where possible one child will be catered for by one adult unless there is a requirement for more adults to be present.
- Under no circumstances will students, work experience or visitors be asked to give intimate care.

Working with Parents

- We believe that our partnership with parents is an essential principle in our setting and is particularly necessary in relation to children needing intimate care. We recognise that the information required to carry out intimate care is gained from parents.
- We acknowledge that cultural influences may affect what is deemed 'intimate' and ensure we pay regard to social, ethnic and cultural perspectives through open dialogue with parents.
- Parents should be encouraged and empowered to work with staff to ensure that their child's needs are identified, understood and met.
- All information concerning intimate care procedures is recorded and stored securely.
- We appreciate that sometimes children have toileting 'accidents' which are out of character for them. In the event of this, and in the absence of a personal intimate care plan, the child would be fully encouraged and supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and ability. Staff will encourage the child to do as much for his/herself as possible and an intimate care slip will be sent home that day to inform parents.
- On the rare occasion that a child is soiled to a point where they are unable to clean themselves to a comfortable state, parents would be contacted immediately so that the child could be taken home for bathing.

The Protection of Children Child Protection procedures will be adhered to.

- All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding to build their confidence and assertiveness about their own body and its worth. Confident and assertive children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to abuse.
- If a member of staff has a concern about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will follow our safeguarding procedures.
- If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution.
- If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed. (See Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures)

Allegations of Abuse

- Personnel working in intimate situations with children can feel particularly vulnerable. This school policy can help to reassure both staff involved and the parents of vulnerable children.
- Action will be taken immediately should there be a discrepancy of reports between a child and the personal assistant. Where there is an allegation of abuse, the guidelines in the Child Protection procedures will be followed. Any allegation of serious misconduct against a member of staff will be passed on to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

Health and Safety Guidelines for Changing Children

- If possible children should be changed standing up or using a changing mat.
- The child's skin should be cleaned with a disposable wipe.
- Nappy creams/lotions should be labelled with the child's name and used only if prescribed for that child (by their parents) they must not be shared.
- Disposable gloves should be worn when changing nappies. The nappy should be folded inward to cover faecal material and wrapped in a nappy bag. Soiled nappies should be disposed of into the bin provided. The disposal bin should be lined and emptied regularly
- Any soiled or damp clothing should be double wrapped in a bag
- Once the child has been changed and removed from the changing area, the surface should be cleaned with an antibacterial detergent spray or wipe and left to dry.
- Gloves, apron and any items used for cleaning the changing area will be wrapped and disposed of via domestic waste.
- Hands should be thoroughly washed afterwards.
- Complete the intimate care record.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our:-

- Child Protection and safeguarding Policy
- Whistle blowing Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Administering Medicine Policy
- Complaint Policy

Alongside DfE documentation; 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021'