



Policy for Intimate Care

Introduction

Beckstone Primary 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 that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

Definition

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up after a child has soiled him/herself) to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene and the cleaning of equipment associated with the process as part of a staff member's duty of care. In the cases of specific procedure only staff suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure, (e.g. the administration of rectal diazepam).

Our Approach to Best Practice

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires intimate care is treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Staff who provide intimate care are fully aware of best practice (including Child Protection and Moving and Handling). Suitable equipment and facilities will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/ occupational therapist.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation. Wherever possible staff who are involved in the intimate care of children will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex education to the children in their care as an additional safeguard to both staff and children involved.

The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for him/herself as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves. Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up when necessary for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child.

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. 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 two adults known to the child, unless there is a sound reason for having only one adult or a staff member unknown to the child present. An intimate care record plan will be used at all times and

signed and dated by the relevant adult/adults carrying out the care procedure.

Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and updated when necessary. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

The Protection of Children

Safeguarding children procedures will be adhered to.

All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of ability, development and understanding.

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead – Debbie Cook.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution. Staffing schedules will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved so that the child's needs remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed (ref. Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy)

All staff will be required to confirm that they have read all policies the school may hold for clarification of practices and procedures.

This policy was evolved by consultation between staff and school's governing body.