



MARSDEN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Marsden Community Primary School Intimate Care Policy

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STATUS: Inclusion Team

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INTIMATE CARE POLICY 2016 - 2017

Updated: July 2016 Review date: Sept 2017

The purpose of this policy is:

- To safeguard the rights and promote the best interests of the children
- To ensure children are treated with sensitivity and respect, and in such a way that their experience of intimate care is a positive one
- *To safeguard adults required to operate in sensitive situations
- *To raise awareness and provide a clear procedure for intimate care
- *To inform parents/carers in how intimate care is administered
- *To ensure parents/carers are consulted in the intimate of care of their children

SCHOOL BELIEFS AND VALUES

It is essential that every child is treated as an individual and that care is given as gently and as sensitively as possible. As far as possible, the child should be allowed to exercise choice and should be encouraged to have a positive image of his/her own body. It is important for staff to bear in mind how they would feel in the child's position. Given the right approach, intimate care can provide opportunities to teach children about the value of their own bodies, to develop their safety skills and to enhance their self-esteem. Parents and staff should be aware that matters concerning intimate care will be dealt with confidentially and sensitively and that the young persons' right to privacy and dignity is maintained at all times.

Definition: Intimate care is -

- Supporting a pupil with dressing/undressing
- Providing comfort or support for a distressed pupil
- Assisting a pupil requiring medical care, who is not able to carry this out unaided
- Cleaning a pupil who has wet or soiled him/herself, has vomited or feels unwell

SUPPORTING DRESSING/ UNDESSING

Sometimes it will be necessary for staff to aid a child in getting dressed or undressed particularly in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Staff will always encourage children to attempt undressing and dressing unaided.

PROVIDING COMFORT/ SUPPORT

Children may seek physical comfort from staff. Where children require physical support, staff need to be aware that physical contact must be kept to a minimum and be child initiated. When comforting a child or giving reassurance, the member of staff's hands should always be seen and a child should not be positioned close to a member of staff's body which could be regarded as intimate. If physical contact is deemed to be appropriate staff must provide care which is suitable to the age, gender and situation of the child.

If a child touches a member of staff in a way that makes him/her feel uncomfortable this can be gently but firmly discouraged in a way which communicates that the touch, rather than the child, is unacceptable.

WETTING/SOILING



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Intimate care for soiling will only be given to a child after the parents have given written permission for staff to clean and change the child. If a parent does not give consent, the school will contact the parents or other emergency contact giving specific details about the necessity for cleaning the child. If the parents/carers or emergency contact is able to come within a short time.

If the parents and emergency contacts cannot be contacted the Headteacher will be consulted. If put in an impossible situation where the child is at risk, staff will act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid the child. When touching a child, staff should always be aware of the possibility of invading a child's privacy and will respect the child's wishes and feelings.

If a child needs to be cleaned, staff will make sure that:

- Protective gloves are worn
- The procedure is discussed in a friendly and reassuring way with the child throughout the process
- The child is encouraged to care for him/herself as far as possible
- Physical contact is kept to the minimum possible to carry out the necessary cleaning.
- Privacy is given appropriate to the child's age and the situation but children will not be alone in a room with an adult with the door closed. The medical room (located near the KSI entrance) is the most suitable location.
- All spills of vomit, blood or excrement are wiped up and flushed down the toilet
- Any soiling that can be, is flushed down the toilet
- Soiled clothing is put in a plastic bag, unwashed, and sent home with the child

If wetting/soiling occurs regularly then parents will be asked to provide spare clothing and pupil and parent will be referred to the school nurses team. **An intimate care plan will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child** (see appendix 1).

NAPPIES/ TRAINING PANTS

Any child wearing nappies will have an intimate care plan which must be signed by the parent/carer. This plan will outline who is responsible in school for changing the child, and where and when this will be carried out. This agreement allows school and parents to be aware of all issues surrounding the task from the outset.

PROTECTION FOR STAFF

Members of staff need to have regard to the danger of allegations being made against them and take precautions to avoid this risk. These should include:

- Gaining a verbal agreement from another member of staff that the action being taken is necessary
- Be aware of and responsive to the child's reactions

SAFEGUARDS FOR CHILDREN

All staff at the school are DBS checked and cannot undertake tasks within school until all checks are completed satisfactorily. All those working with children should be closely supervised throughout a probationary period and should only be allowed unsupervised access to children once this has been completed to their supervisor's satisfaction.

It is not appropriate for volunteers or students to carry out intimate care procedures.



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Appendix I

Intimate Care Plan

Child's Name	Date
Nominated Staff:	
Main areas of need * * *	
Detailed plan: (Please refer to any toileting plans, dressing or undressing needs)	
This plan was written by.....on.....	
This plan was agreed with parents/ carers on (date).....	
The child's views were sought for this plan on (date).....	
(If not, please state why not):	
Signed (Headteacher) Date	
Signed (Staff member/s) Date	
..... Date	
Signed (Parent/ carer) Date	

