



Harting CofE Primary School

Intimate Care Policy

Owner: Personnel Committee

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Hardcopy in File

1. Introduction

Staff recognise that intimate care requires them to be respectful to children's needs. Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene which demand direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the genitals.

Children's dignity will be preserved and a level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at Harting School work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care young children whenever possible.

Harting 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. The team recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given.

2. Our Approach to Best Practice

All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times. The child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance. Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children.

There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care so the child is aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.

As a basic procedure children 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 themselves as they can.

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation. Where possible each child will be cared for by his/her key worker. The time, date and person who cared for the child will be recorded on the appropriate proforma.

3. The Protection of Children

All staff are trained in the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures.

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc she/he will immediately report concerns to the designated person for safeguarding and child protection. A care record of the concern will be placed on the relevant proforma and appropriate referrals made as necessary.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff the matter will be looked into and the outcome recorded – the child's needs remain paramount. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution. 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.