



## Ladock C E School

### INTIMATE CARE POLICY 2017

(adapted from LA policy)

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Staff who work with young children or vulnerable children/young people\* who have special needs, will realise that the issue of intimate care is a difficult one and will require staff to be respectful of children's needs.
- 1.2 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. Examples include care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing or bathing.
- 1.3 Children's dignity will be preserved and a high 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 Ladock School work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.
- 1.4 Staff deliver a full personal safety curriculum, as part of the early years foundation stage curriculum to all children as appropriate to their developmental level and degree of understanding. This work is shared with parents who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages within the home.
- 1.5 Ladock CE 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. Ladock CE School recognises 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 or pain.

#### 2.0 OUR APPROACH TO BEST PRACTICE

- 2.1 All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.
- 2.2 Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (with reference to and including Child Protection and Health and Safety training in moving and handling) and are fully aware of best practice. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/ occupational therapist as required.
- 2.3 There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic, etc.) to discuss the child's needs and preferences. The child is aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.

- 2.4 As a basic principle 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. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves or verbally giving them instructions on what to do when going to the toilet. Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child and in consultation with parents/carers. These plans include a full risk assessment to address issues such as moving and handling, personal safety of the child and the carer and health.
- 2.5 Ladock CE School recognises that every child has the right to be accepted for who they are without regard to race, culture and beliefs and will ensure that the values of the parent/carer and child/young person are taken into account when developing an individual intimate care plan
- 2.6 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 needs help with intimate care. Where possible one child will be cared for by one adult at a time unless there is a sound reason for having two adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented.
- 2.7 Wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis; there will be a rota of carers known to the child who will take turns in providing care. This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, while at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers. Ladock School recognize this in the constraints of a small school but will endeavour to be aware of the need to discourage over familiarity.
- 2.9 Parents/carers will be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements on a regular basis; a clear account of the agreed arrangements will be recorded on the **child's care plan**. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be carefully considered alongside any possible constraints; e.g. staffing and equal opportunities legislation.
- 2.10 Each child/young person will have an assigned senior member of staff to act as an advocate to whom they will be able to communicate any issues or concerns that they may have about the quality of care they receive.

### **3.0 THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

- 3.1 Ladock CE School Child Protection Procedures and the South West Child Protection Procedures ([www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk)) will be accessible to staff and adhered to.
- 3.2 Where appropriate, all children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.
- 3.3 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 appropriate manager/ designated person for child protection. A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred to social care and/or the Police if necessary. Parents will be asked for their consent or

informed that a referral is necessary prior to it being made unless doing so is likely to place the child at greater risk of harm. A copy of the school's Child Protection Procedures is available on the school website and upon request from reception.

- 3.4 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. 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.
- 3.5 If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed (see the school's Child Protection Procedures and the South West Child Protection Procedures [www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk)). This includes referring to the Local Authority Designated Officer, 01872 254547

*\* where 'children' are mentioned in this document, the term will also include young people.*

This policy was adopted by the school governors on.....

This policy will be reviewed in November 2019

Signature of Headteacher.....

Signature of Chair of Governors.....