



ST MEWAN C P SCHOOL

Policy Co-ordinator – Sarah Vercoe

Intimate Care Policy

Date: September 2020

Review Date: September 2021

At St Mewan School, we are committed to safeguarding children. The health, safety and emotional well-being of every child are our paramount concern. Our aim is that the children will thrive during their time with us in a safe and happy environment. This Policy is to be reviewed every 2 years.

School Aims

Our school community (children, staff, parents and governors) aims to:

- Learn and grow together within a safe, caring and happy environment;
- Continually encourage achievement in all aspects of school life;
- Motivate all children with a broad and challenging curriculum;
- Treat everyone with honesty and respect ;
- Ensure opportunities for all.

Introduction

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

Principles

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.



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Definition

Intimate care is one of the following:

- 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 soiled him/herself, has vomited or feels unwell

Supporting dressing/undressing

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

Soiling

If the child is overly distressed, or the adult is unable to clean the child adequately then the parents/carer will be contacted.

Providing comfort or 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.

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;

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- 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;
- 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.

Hygiene

All staff must be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection, must follow basic hygiene procedures and have access to protective, disposable gloves.

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
- Allow the child, wherever possible, to express a preference to choose his/her carer and encourage them to say if they find a carer to be unacceptable
- Allow the child a choice in the sequence of care
- Be aware of and responsive to the child's reactions

This Policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier, if necessary.