



# INTIMATE CARE POLICY

May 2017

**Introduction**

The Grove 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 people with respect when intimate care is given. Each child will be attended to in a caring way to ensure minimal distress, embarrassment or pain.

**What is Intimate Care?**

Intimate care is any personal care that most people usually carry out for themselves.

**Our Approach to Best Practice**

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned and should be a positive experience for all involved. Any 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 this care are trained to do so (including Safeguarding and Child Protection and Moving and Handling Training) and are fully aware of best practice, including having read the Department of Education Guidance for Safer Working practice for Adults who work with children and young people in Education Settings. Suitable equipment and facilities can be identified to assist with children who need special arrangements by an assessment from an Occupational Therapist. (OT)

It is the school's responsibility to support staff that are carrying out intimate care procedures. Advice can be given by contacting the occupational therapy service, school nurse or the Education Child Protection Service as required. Whenever possible staff who are involved in the intimate care of children will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex and relationships education to the children in their care as an additional safeguard to both staff and children involved. If staff are involved care should be taken to ensure that resource materials cannot be misinterpreted and clearly relate to the learning outcomes identified by the lesson plan. This plan should highlight particular areas of risk and sensitivity.

Children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy possible given their age and abilities. Staff will ensure each child does 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 as appropriate (Appendix A) and shared and agreed by the child and their parents/carers.

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each situation to determine how many staff need to be present when the child is being cared for. In Early Years and Key Stage 1, where possible one child will be catered for by two adults. In Key Stage 2, one child will be catered for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. In this case, the reasons should be clearly documented and reassessed regularly. Wherever reasonable and practical staff should only care intimately for an individual of the same sex. However, in certain circumstances this principle may need to be waived where failure to provide appropriate care would result in negligence, for example female staff supporting boys when there is no male staff.

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

### **Safeguarding Children**

Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Safeguarding Interagency Procedures will be adhered to alongside the school's safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures.

All children will be taught personal safety skills as part of Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) relative to their age, ability and understanding. Research indicates that children with an awareness of personal safety and the ability to be assertive are more resilient to abuse. These skills will be shared with parents/carers to enable them to be consolidated within the home/community.

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical or behavioural changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness or reluctance to go to certain places/people etc. s/he will immediately pass their concerns to the Designated Person for child protection in the school.

If a child is displaying inappropriate sexual behaviour/language, advice should be sought from the appropriate source (e.g. In schools this might be: Designated Person for Child Protection, School Nurse, Social Care, Education Child Protection Service, Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service)

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, following the Interagency Procedures will be taken from outside agencies as necessary.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff the procedures for Allegations Against Staff will be followed as outlined in the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy. All staff involved in intimate care are required to have read the School's Policy and Guidance for Intimate Care and the Department of Education (DfE) Guidance for Safer Working Practice as previously mentioned. Be aware of the need to refer to other policies the school may have in place for clarification of practices and procedures.

This policy was developed by consultation between staff, the governing body or management committee, parents and children/young people (as appropriate) and was ratified

By (signed) .....on.....

This policy will be reviewed in May 2019



The following people will be assisting in the above activities:

Named Person: .....

.....

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Additional people who may be involved to cover when the named people are absent:

.....

.....

I am in agreement with the above procedures being undertaken: (Please sign as appropriate)

Child for whom the plan is for.....

Parent/Carer .....

SENCO/Inclusion mentor .....

Teaching Assistant(s) ..... Teaching Assistant (s) .....

Date ..... Date for review .....