

Spalding St Paul's Primary



Policy for Intimate Care

2019-2021

Introduction

St Pauls is committed to the safeguarding of all children and staff in accordance with national guidelines.

Staff with SAFEGUARDING concerns about a child/young person or adult behaviour towards a child should adhere to the SAFEGUARDING POLICY & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY and the 'DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE TOWARDS ADULTS OR VOLUNTEERS'. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Kira Nicholls and the Deputy DSL is Donna Palmer.

- Staff who work with young children or 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.
- 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.
- 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 SSSF work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.
- St Pauls are committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. St Pauls 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.
- 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 taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation.
- Parents/carers will be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements by attending a meeting to implement a toilet plan/ care plan.
- 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/ wiping themselves. Wherever possible the child will select adults that they feel comfortable in supporting their toileting needs to ensure their wishes and feelings are valued.
- Staff will always encourage children to manage their intimate care and will only support if the child is unable to do so themselves.

The Protection of Children

- Education Child Protection Procedures and Inter-Agency Child Protection procedures will be accessible to staff and adhered to.
- Where appropriate, all children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.
- 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; Kira Nicholls or Donna Palmer. The school Safeguarding Policy will then be adhered to.
- If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, SEE ABOVE AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY. * where 'children' are mentioned in this document, the term will also include young people.

- This policy was presented to the Governing Body and agreed on.....
- Head teacher _____ Date _____
- Chair of Governors _____ Date _____