



Hadley Wood Primary School

Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines

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Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines

Introduction

Hadley Wood 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 with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain. The Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines regarding children have been developed to safeguard children and staff. They apply to everyone involved in the intimate care of children.

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up after a child has soiled him/herself), that most children can carry out for themselves, but with which some are unable to do due to physical disability, special educational needs associated with learning difficulties, medical needs or needs arising from the child's stage of development. Care may involve help with drinking, eating, dressing and toileting. Help may also be needed with changing colostomy bags and other such equipment. It may also require the administration of an insulin injection, epipen or rectal medication. In most cases intimate care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene and the cleaning of equipment associated with the process. In the case of a specific procedure only a person suitably trained and assessed as competent will undertake the procedure. Any additional training will be provided by the school.

Aims

The aims of this document and associated guidance are:

- To provide guidance and reassurance to staff and parent/s
- To safeguard the dignity, rights and wellbeing of children
- To assure parents that staff are knowledgeable about intimate care and that their individual needs and concerns are taken into account

Principles

- Every child has the right to feel safe and secure
- Every child has the right to be treated as an individual
- Every child has the right to remain healthy
- Every child has the right to privacy, dignity and a professional approach from all staff when meeting his or her needs
- Every child has the right to information and support that will enable him or her to make informed and appropriate choices
- Every child has the right to be accepted for who they are, without regard to age, gender, ability, race, culture or beliefs
- Every child (and parent) has the right to information and procedures for any complaint or queries he or she may have regarding intimate care

Procedures

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. 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.

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 unless there is a sound reason for having two or more adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented. Student and Volunteers will not aid in the intimate care of our pupils at Hadley Wood School.

When necessary parents/carers will be involved with their child's intimate care at School; 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.

We aim to:

- Safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of all children and young people including those who may be more vulnerable to abuse
- Provide guidance and reassurance to staff whose duties may include intimate care
- Assure parents and carers that staff are knowledgeable about personal care and that their child's individual needs and concerns are taken into consideration
- Remove barriers to learning and participation, protect from discrimination and ensure inclusion for all children and young people within our setting

Good Practice

Our approach to Best Practice:

- Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child
- We will work with parents of a child who requires intimate care to establish a preferred procedure for supporting the child
- Where these procedures may require specialist training, we will seek out training for the staff who will be involved in a child's care, ensuring that the child's key-person and at least one other member of staff accesses the training.
- Staff members who are known to the child will take on that responsibility for changing children. The staff member who is involved will always ask the child for permission to assist them. The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy and independence that is possible given their age and ability.
- Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many carers might need to be present when a child is toileted. Where possible one child will be catered for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. It is the parent's responsibility to provide nappies, disposal bags, wipes, changing mat.

Working with Parents

We believe that our partnership with parents is an essential principle in our setting and is particularly necessary in relation to children needing intimate care. We recognise that the information required to carry out intimate care is gained from parents as is prior permission (see Appendix 1). We acknowledge that cultural influences may affect what is deemed 'intimate' and ensure we pay regard to social, ethnic and cultural perspectives through open dialogue with parents.

Parents should be encouraged and empowered to work with staff to ensure that their child's needs are identified, understood and met.

When any intimate care is carried out on children with individual care plans, it will be recorded on their own personal record (see appendix 2). All information concerning intimate care procedures is recorded and stored securely.

We appreciate that sometimes children have toileting 'accidents' which are out of character for them. In the event of this, and in the absence of a personal intimate care plan, the child would be fully encouraged and supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and ability. Staff will encourage the child to do as much for his/herself as possible and parents will be informed the same day. On the rare occasion that a child is soiled to a point where they are unable to clean themselves to a comfortable state, parents would be contacted immediately so that the child could be taken home for bathing.

Pupil Voice

Hadley Wood Primary school will agree the appropriate terminology for private parts of the body and functions to be used by staff. It may be possible to determine a child's wishes by observation of reactions to the intimate care.

Where there is any doubt that a child is able to make an informed choice on these issues, the child's parents are usually in the best position to act as advocates. It is the responsibility of all staff caring for a child to ensure they are aware of the child's method and level of communication.

Communication methods may include words, signs, symbols, body movements and eye pointing. To ensure effective communication with the child, staff will ascertain the agreed method of communication and identify this in the agreed Intimate Care Plan

The Protection of Children

Child Protection procedures will be adhered to. All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding to build their confidence and assertiveness about their own body and its worth.

If a member of staff has a concern about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will follow our safeguarding procedures.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, a concern will be raised, explored by SLT and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed. (See Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures)

Recruitment

Parents must feel confident that relevant staff have been carefully vetted and trained helping to avoid potentially stressful areas of anxiety and conflict. Recruitment and selection of candidates for posts involving intimate care will be made following the usual Safeguarding, Criminal Records Bureau checks, equal opportunities and employment rights legislation.

Candidates should be made fully aware of what will be required and detailed in their job description before accepting the post. Wherever/if possible, staff should work with children of the same sex in providing intimate care respecting their personal dignity at all times. Intimate care can only be provided in school by those who have a job description to reflect this or have specifically indicated a willingness to do so.

Allegations of Abuse

Personnel working in intimate situations with children can feel particularly vulnerable. This school policy can help to reassure both staff involved and the parents of vulnerable children. Action will be taken

immediately should there be a discrepancy of reports between a child and the personal assistant. Where there is an allegation of abuse, the guidelines in the Child Protection procedures will be followed.

Health and Safety

Guidelines for Changing Children

- If possible children should be changed standing up or using the variable height changing table (hygiene suite) to avoid staff lifting children.
- The child's skin should be cleaned with a disposable wipe.
- Nappy creams/lotions should be labelled with the child's name and used only if prescribed for that child (by their parents) they must not be shared.
- Disposable gloves should be worn when changing nappies. The nappy should be folded inward to cover faecal material and double wrapped in a nappy bag. Soiled nappies should be disposed of into the bin provided. The disposal bin should be lined and emptied daily, replacing the used bin liner.
- Any soiled or damp clothing should be placed in a plastic carrier bag in the bin provided in the hygiene suite.
- Once the child has been changed and removed from the changing area, the surface should be cleaned with an antibacterial detergent spray or wipe and left to dry.
- Gloves, apron and any items used for cleaning the changing area will be wrapped and disposed of via domestic waste.
- Hands should be thoroughly washed afterwards.
- Complete the intimate care record.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities Statement

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their age, gender, race, religion, belief, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals.

Hadley Wood Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential. Policies are available on each of these that expand on this further.

The Intimate Care Policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies for:

- SEND and SEND Information Report
- Health & Safety
- Positive Handling
- Equality
- Supporting Children with Medical Conditions