



Littletown Primary Academy

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INTIMATE CARE POLICY

**This Policy was adopted by the Full Governing Body of
Littletown Primary Academy**

On 5 December 2017

**signed.....
(Chair of Governors)**

Date Policy to be reviewed on:

December 2018

General Statement of Policy	1.0 INTRODUCTION
	1.1 Staff who work with young children or children 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 safeguarding issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at Littletown Primary Academy and Nursery work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible.
	1.4 Staff deliver a full personal safety curriculum, as part of Personal, Social and Health Education, 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 Littletown Primary Academy and Nursery 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. Littletown Primary Academy and Nursery 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 (including Safeguarding 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 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. Wherever possible staff who are involved in the intimate care of

	<p>children will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex and relationship education to their children as an additional safeguard to both staff and children involved.</p>
2.4	<p>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.</p>
2.5	<p>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. Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child. 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.</p>
2.6	<p>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 adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented.</p>
2.7	<p>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.</p>
2.8	<p>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.</p>
3.0	<p>THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN</p>
3.1	<p>Education Safeguarding Procedures and Inter-Agency Safeguarding procedures will be accessible to staff and adhered to.</p>
3.2	<p>Where appropriate, all children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.</p>
3.3	<p>If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in</p>

	<p>a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the designated person for child protection who is the Principal. A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred to the MASH 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.</p>
3.4	<p>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.</p>
3.5	<p>If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed [see Safeguarding Policy].</p>
3.6	<p>All staff will be required to refer to the nappy changing procedure for best practice within the nursery. See Appendix 1.</p>
4.0	<p>Training for intimate care</p>
4.1	<p>Staff to read intimate care policy and sign form.</p>
4.2	<p>Staff to follow guidelines set out in policy.</p>
4.3	<p>Training session to be completed to talk about duty of care, safeguarding and hygiene routines.</p>
	<p>Each child will have a plan to follow, this plan should be updated when needed, working with parents to maintain continuity of care.</p>

Appendix 1

Nappy Changing Procedure

- 1.** Prepare nappy changing area with paper towel over changing mat, and all equipment ready including clean clothes if required.
- 2.** Put on rubber gloves.
- 3.** Place child on the changing mat. Remove clothes, if soiled place into plastic bag to take home.
- 4.** Remove soiled nappy, put into nappy sack.
- 5.** Using wipes, clean child's bottom from front to back. Place soiled wipes into nappy sack.
- 6.** Use wipes to remove soil from adult's gloves, place wipes into nappy sack.
- 7.** Remove soiled paper towel from under child if necessary and put gloves into nappy sack. Tie top and place into nappy bin.
- 8.** Put on clean gloves.
- 9.** Put on clean nappy, cream if requested by parents and redress child.
- 10.** Sanitize nappy mat and changing area. Put gloves into bin.
- 11.** Wash child's hands at sink.
- 12.** Wash adult hands.

May 2011