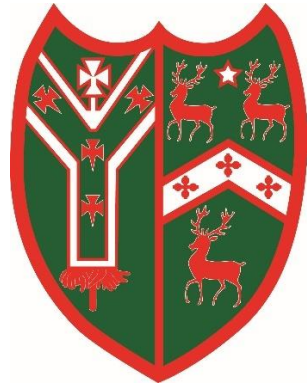


LISNADILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



POLICY ON INTIMATE CARE

Updated October 2023

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been agreed by all staff and governors in the school. It has been developed to safeguard children and staff operating in sensitive situations to assure that parents and staff are knowledgeable about how intimate care is administered.

DEFINITION

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to intimate personal areas. It may involve supporting a pupil with dressing/undressing or providing comfort or support for a distressed pupil, cleaning up after a child has soiled him/herself, or vomited, menstrual care, Catheter or stoma care. In cases of specific procedures such as medical care, only staff suitably trained should undertake the procedure (eg the administration of rectal diazepam).

PRINCIPLES

This is an extract from 'Every Child Matters'.

- *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 has the right to information and procedures for any complaint or queries he or she may have regarding intimate care.*

WORKING WITH PARENTS

All parents will be asked to sign a consent form giving permission for staff to be allowed to assist with changing clothing in the absence of a parent. At the beginning of the PI year, all parents are requested to provide a change of pants and socks for their child. Parents will be encouraged to work with staff to ensure their child's needs are identified, understood and met.

Exchanging information with parents is essential and will be by personal contact or telephone. Sensitive information will not be recorded in homework books or shared with people other than those named as contacts unless requested by parents. If a child is having continual toileting accidents, a meeting will be arranged with the child's parents to agree appropriate strategies for managing the situation.

PUPIL VOICE

Every attempt will be made to determine the child's wishes. The child, subject to their age and understanding, will have the opportunity to express a preference regarding his or her care, or sequence of care.

PERIOD DIGNITY

Period Dignity refers to the accessibility and availability of essential care needed to support a girl having her period. On occasions girls may require assistance from an adult.

- Period products are available in the KS2 girls toilets and are obtainable to those who require them.
- Spare tights and pants are available for KS 2 girls, if they are required.
- KS2 girls will be informed about the products and their uses by KS2 teacher. Challenges such as pain, anxiety, fear and embarrassment will be addressed.

SUPPORTING DRESSING/UNDRESSING

Staff will encourage children to attempt taking off and putting on their own clothes and using baby wipes by themselves but sometimes it will be necessary for staff to help (particularly in the Early Years). For the protection of both the child and the staff member, staff will always ensure that they have a colleague in attendance and a private place for the child to change.

PROVIDING COMFORT OR SUPPORT

Physical support should be kept to a minimum and at no time should be intimate. Children (particularly in the Early Years) may seek comfort or reassurance in which case staff should provide care which is suitable to the age and gender of the child and in the presence of another adult.

If a child touches a member of staff in a way that makes him/her feel uncomfortable this should be gently but firmly discouraged so that the child can appreciate that it is not the child but the touch that is unacceptable.

MEDICAL CARE

Pupils with short or long term medical conditions which involve intimate care will receive this in line with the child's 'Care Plan'. Consultation regarding arrangements will take place with parents. Written permission must be received from the parent before intimate care can be carried out.

SOILING

If a child soils him/herself parents will be contacted and asked to assist their child. The child will be made as comfortable as possible while they wait for parents to arrive. It may be necessary for the child to remain out of class to maintain dignity. In the event of a parent being unable to attend, the school will request verbal consent to clean and change the child. If the school is placed in a situation where there is no response from the named contacts, then staff will make the child as comfortable as possible. Should the child have a minor accident, eg wetting or slight soiling, the child will be provided with wipes, fresh underwear and a place to clean and change themselves.

MANAGING INTIMATE CARE

All staff will follow appropriate procedures. These include:-

- requesting the support of a second adult unless parents have agreed otherwise
- wearing protective gloves
- providing wet wipes
- sourcing clean clothes from those provided by parents, or from the communal stores
- placing soiled clothing in a bag
- following basic hygiene procedures such as hand washing
- recording the incident on the appropriate proforma

All staff will treat the child with respect and deal with accidents in a quiet and sensitive manner. Information about a child will only be shared with those who need to know such as parents and staff specifically involved with the child. These arrangements will also apply to school trips.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Staff will receive Safeguarding and Child Protection Training every 2 years. If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation eg marks, bruises etc, they should inform the Designated Teacher (Mrs Speers) or Deputy Designated teacher (Mr Savage).

Staff will be aware of the Health and Safety Policy.

Staff will have clear understanding of the school's approach to Intimate Care and will be made aware of any changes to School Policy.

This Policy will be kept under review.

Updated October 2023