



Rush Green Primary School

Intimate Care Policy



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Rush Green 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 and dignity when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain. Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff that provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of safeguarding issues. Staff will work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care.

DEFINITION

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene and the cleaning of associated equipment as part of the staff member's duty of care. In the case of specific procedures only the staff suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure (e.g. the administration of rectal diazepam).

OUR APPROACH TO BEST PRACTICE

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires care will be treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Staff who provide intimate care are fully aware of best practice. Suitable equipment and facilities will be provided to assist children who need special arrangements following assessment from the appropriate agencies.

In the first instance, the adults listed on the child's contact list will be called to school to manage the child's intimate care needs. However, if staff do provide intimate care, it is essential that the adult who is going to change the child informs the teacher and/or another member of staff that they are going to do this. To completely secure against any risk of allegation, a second member of staff will be present.

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 or menstruation. Wherever possible staff involved in intimate care will not be involved in the delivery of sex education to the children in their care as an extra safeguard to both staff and children involved.

The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities.

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Safeguarding Procedures and Multi-Agency Protection procedures will be adhered to. Where parents do not co-operate with intimate care agreements concerns should be raised with the parents in the first instance. A meeting may be called that could possibly include the health visitor and head teacher to identify the areas of concern and how all present can address them. If these concerns continue there should be discussions with the school's safeguarding co-ordinator about the appropriate action to take to safeguard the welfare of the child.

If any member of staff has concerns about physical changes to a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the appropriate designated person for safeguarding.

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 the process in order to reach a resolution; staffing schedules will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved.

All staff and parents will be required to confirm that they have read the Rush Green Primary School Intimate Care Policy. This Intimate Care Policy was evolved by consideration between staff and governors and was approved in March 2019.

This policy will be reviewed in March 2022.

Please return to class teacher

I have read the Rush Green Intimate Care Policy and understand that I will be called to school to manage my child's intimate care needs. However, if this is not possible I agree / do not agree for my child to be cleaned in intimate personal areas if he / she has a toilet accident.

Name of Child: _____

Name of Parent/Carer/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Carer/Guardian: _____

Date: _____