

Intimate Care Policy

Redgate Primary Academy

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1. Introduction

A significant number of children in our care at Redgate Primary Academy are likely to require a high level of assistance with their intimate care. These are our most vulnerable children and we must, at all times, have due regard for their dignity and individual rights.

We have a duty of care, which includes the provision of intimate personal care and protection from abuse. It is for this reason that this document will outline clear, concise and unambiguous guidelines for working effectively and safety in this area of the school.

2. Aims & Guidelines

The following Aims and Guidelines will serve as protection for both staff and children.

- To provide a high level of continuity of personal care
- To ensure that the environment in which intimate care is provided matches the needs of the child
- To ensure staff are aware of each child's intimate care programme
- To view intimate care as 'intimate assistance' as this gives the initiative/autonomy to the child
- To ensure staff are given guidance as to how to respond to sexual arousal when intimate care is taking place
- To ensure that during out of school activities, intimate care will be given with the same standards of privacy and dignity
- All staff working with children have been through an appropriate safer recruitment process
- Parental/Care permission is obtained to carry out any personal hygiene on a child

3. Providing Intimate Care

The following guidelines will be followed when providing intimate care.

- The environment will be clean and hygienic when delivering intimate care
- The environment will feel comfortable and safe when delivering intimate care
- When a child needs changing, this should be done as soon as possible.
- The child will be told what is going to happen to them. The language will be age appropriate.

The child's agreement will be sought at all stages of the intimate care task.

- Standardised signs, symbols, words and objects of reference for materials used in intimate care will be used to avoid ambiguity and ensure clarity of intention
- The quality of touch will be supportive and affirmative – never rough and insensitive.
- A sensitive but impersonal attitude will be used when dealing with private bodily parts and functions to avoid potentially undignified situations
- Except when carrying out hygiene procedures, private body parts will not be touched.
- Any cultural or religious guidelines will be followed in consultation with parents/carers
- Correct terminology for body parts will always be used. This will be discussed with parents/carers so the child will not be confused
- Sexual arousal will be responded to by, if possible, halting physical contact and giving a standardised verbal response
- Out of school activities will be planned with due regard to the location and availability of toilets and changing areas
- There will be regular, open discussions of issues and concerns arising from the provision of intimate care
- The use of creams and lotions will not be used during intimate care unless these have been specifically sent from the child's home, clearly labelled with the child's name on it. These should not be used on any other children