



# Intimate Care Policy

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# Stanley Crook Primary School

## Intimate Care Policy

### Introduction

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up a pupil after they have soiled themselves) to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve cleaning for hygiene purposes, as part of a member of staff's duty of care. The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and requires to be respectful of the child's needs. The child's dignity should be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control. There will always be a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour must be open to scrutiny and staff must work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

### Aims and Objectives

Stanley Crook 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 or pain. The child who requires intimate care is treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Any child with intimate care needs 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 him/herself as she/he 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.**

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many staff 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.

Wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis; ideally there will be a rota of staff known to the child who will take turns in providing care. Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents when necessary. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing.

### Child Protection Procedures

Education Child Protection Procedures and Inter-Agency Protection procedures will be adhered to. All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their development and understanding. If a staff member has any concerns about a child's physical changes (bruises, marks, etc) they will immediately report concerns as per school procedures.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy regarding being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into, parents will be consulted and outcomes recorded. The child's needs remain paramount. If a child makes allegations against a member of staff, necessary procedures will be followed.

### **Children Wearing Nappies**

Any child wearing nappies will have an intimate care plan which must be signed by the parent/carer. This plan will outline who is responsible in school for changing the child, and where and when this will be carried out. This agreement allows school and parents to be aware of all issues surrounding the task from outset.

### **Health & Safety Guidance**

Staff should always wear appropriate clothing and gloves when dealing with a child who is soiled or when changing a nappy. Any solid waste should be placed in a polythene waste disposal bag and sealed. The bag should then be placed in a bin, (with a liner) specifically designed for such waste. This bin should be collected on a weekly basis as part of the usual refuse. It is not classed as clinical waste.

### **Special Needs**

Children with special needs have the same rights to privacy and safety when receiving intimate care. Additional vulnerabilities (any physical disability or learning difficulty) must be considered when drawing up care plans for individual children. Regardless of age and ability, the views and emotional responses of children with special needs should be actively sought when drawing up or reviewing a care plan.

### **Physical Contact**

All staff engaged in the care and education of children and young people need to exercise caution in the use of physical contact.

Staff must be aware that even well-intentioned contact might be misconstrued by the child or an observer. Staff must always be prepared to justify actions and accept that all physical contact is open to scrutiny.

The expectation is that when staffs make physical contact with pupils it will be:

- For the least amount of time necessary (limited touch)
- Appropriate, given their age, stage of development and background
- In response to the pupil's needs at the time

Arrangements must be understood and agreed by all concerned, justified in terms of the child's needs and consistently applied and open to scrutiny. Where possible, consultation with colleagues should take place where any deviation from arrangements is anticipated. Any deviation from the agreed plan must be documented and reported.

Extra caution may be needed where a child has previously suffered abuse or neglect. This may lead to staff being vulnerable to allegations of abuse.

Many such children are needy and seek out inappropriate physical contact. In such circumstances staff should deter the child, seek witness and document and report the incident.