

# Ringway Primary School

## Intimate Care Policy

*The Future starts here!*

Our aim is to provide the foundations for a positive future for our pupils.

A future where pupils learn to stay safe, to understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle , and to enjoy all they do.

A future where they are money smart & make a positive & respectful contribution to their culturally diverse community - at a local, national & global level.

A future where they aspire to be the best they can be & achieve their full potential.

Created.....Feb 15.....

Reviewed.....Feb 18.....

Signed C of Gov.....

# Ringway Primary School Intimate Care Policy

This policy represents the agreed principles for intimate care throughout the school. This policy has been agreed by all staff and governors within the school.

## Introduction

The purpose of this policy is:

- To safeguard the rights and promote the best interests of the children
- To ensure children are treated with sensitivity and respect, and in such a way that their experience of intimate care is a positive one
- To safeguard adults required to operate in sensitive situations
- To raise awareness and provide a clear procedure for intimate care
- To inform parents/carers in how intimate care is administered
- To ensure parents/carers are consulted in the intimate care of their children

## Principles

It is essential that every child is treated as an individual and that care is given as gently and as sensitively as possible. As far as possible, the child should be allowed to exercise choice and should be encouraged to have a positive image of his/her own body. It is important for staff to bear in mind how they would feel in the child's position. Given the right approach, intimate care can provide opportunities to teach children about the value of their own bodies, to develop their safety skills and to enhance their self esteem. Parents and staff should be aware that matters concerning intimate care will be dealt with confidentially and sensitively and that the young persons' right to privacy and dignity is maintained at all times.

## Definition

Intimate care is one of the following:

Supporting a pupil with dressing/undressing

Providing comfort or support for a distressed pupil

Assisting a pupil requiring medical care, who is not able to carry this out unaided

Cleaning a pupil who has soiled him/herself, has vomited or feels unwell

## Supporting dressing/undressing

Sometimes it will be necessary for staff to aid a child in getting dressed or undressed particularly in Early Years and Nursery. Staff will always encourage children to attempt undressing and dressing unaided.

## Providing comfort or support

Children may seek physical comfort / cuddles from staff . Where children require physical support, staff need to be aware that physical contact should be child initiated. When

comforting a child or giving reassurance, the member of staff's hands should always be seen and a child should not be positioned close to a member of staff's body which could be regarded as intimate. If physical contact is deemed to be appropriate staff must provide care which is suitable to the age, gender and situation of the child.

It is acceptable that staff hold a child's hand to guide them along if the child wishes.

If a child touches a member of staff in a way that makes him/her feel uncomfortable this can be gently but firmly discouraged in a way which communicates that the touch, rather than the child, is unacceptable.

### **Medical procedures (See Policy on Medicines)**

If it is necessary for a child to receive medicine during the school day parents must fill out a permission form from the school office and discuss their child's needs with a member of staff before the school agrees to administer medicines or medical care. It must be made clear to parents that staff administration of medicines is voluntary.

### **Soiling**

Intimate care for soiling should only be given to a child after the parents have given permission for staff to clean and change the child. Parents who have children in the Nursery may sign a permission form so that the Early Years staff can clean and change their child in the event of the child soiling themselves (Appendix 1).

If a parent does not give consent, the school will contact the parents or other emergency contact giving specific details about the necessity for cleaning the child. If the parents/carers or emergency contact is able to come within a few minutes, the child is comforted and kept away from the other children to preserve dignity until the parent arrives. Children are not left on their own whilst waiting for a parent to arrive, an adult will stay with them, giving comfort and reassurance. The child will be dressed at all times and never left partially clothed.

If a parent/carer or emergency contact cannot attend, the school seeks to gain verbal consent from parents/carers for staff to clean and change the child. This permission will be sought on each occasion that the child soils him or herself.

If the parents and emergency contacts cannot be contacted the Head Teacher will be consulted. If put in an impossible situation where the child is at risk, staff will act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid the child.

When touching a child, staff should always be aware of the possibility of invading a child's privacy and will respect the child's wishes and feelings.

If a child needs to be cleaned, staff will make sure that:

Protective gloves are worn

The procedure is discussed in a friendly and reassuring way with the child throughout the process.

The child is encouraged to care for him/herself as far as possible

Physical contact is kept to the minimum possible to carry out the necessary cleaning.

Privacy is given appropriate to the child's age and the situation

All spills of vomit, blood or excrement are wiped up and flushed down the toilet

Any soiling that can be, is flushed down the toilet

Soiled clothing is put in a plastic bag, unwashed, and sent home with the child

## **Hygiene**

All staff must be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection, must follow basic hygiene procedures and have access to protective, disposable gloves.

## **Protection for staff**

Members of staff need to have regard to the danger of allegations being made against them and take precautions to avoid this risk. These should include:

Gaining a verbal agreement from another member of staff that the action being taken is necessary.

Allow the child, wherever possible, to express a preference to choose his/her carer and encourage them to say if they find a carer to be unacceptable

Allow the child a choice in the sequence of care

Be aware of and responsive to the child's reactions

To keep an open door when alone with a child in a room.

## **Safeguards for children**

There is an obligation on local authorities to ensure that staff who have substantial, unsupervised access to children undergo police checks. All staff at Ringway Primary School are CRB checked on application and cannot undertake tasks within school until all checks are completed satisfactorily. The CRB's aim is to help organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors by identifying candidates who may be unsuitable to work with children or other vulnerable members of society. Personal and professional references are also required and unsuitable candidates are not permitted to work within the school.

All those working with children should be closely supervised throughout a probationary period and should only be allowed unsupervised access to children once this has been completed to their supervisor's satisfaction.

It is not appropriate for volunteers to carry out intimate care procedures. Students should only do so under the supervision of a trained member of staff, following consultation with the student's college supervisors.

This Policy will be reviewed every 2 years or earlier if necessary.

**Permission form for the Provision of Care**

(To be filled out before starting Early Years)

If a child wets or soils themselves while they are at nursery or reception it is important that measures are taken to have them changed (and if necessary cleaned) as quickly as possible. Our Early Years staff are experienced and trained at carrying out this task if you wish them to do so or, if preferred, the school can contact you or your emergency contact who will be asked to attend without delay. Ringway Primary has an Intimate Care Policy which is available to view on our website ,or ask for a copy from the office.

Please fill out the permission slip below stating your preference.

Yours sincerely,

Nuala Forkan

Head Teacher

Name of Child.....Class.....

**Please delete as appropriate**

\*I give consent for my child to be changed and cleaned by Early Years' staff if they wet/soil themselves while in the care of Ringway Primary School.

\*I do not give consent for my child to be changed and cleaned if they wet/soil themselves. The school will contact me or my emergency contact and I will organise for my child to be cleaned and changed. I understand that in the event that I (or the emergency contact) cannot be contacted the staff will act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid the child.

Signature of Parent/Carer..... Date