



Intimate Care Policy

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| Committee with oversight for this policy – Behaviour & Safety | |
| Policy to be approved by the Headteacher | |
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RAVENOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

INTIMATE CARE POLICY (Information for Parents)

As a school we aim to:

- Ensure that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times
- Ensure that all children are treated with respect when intimate care is given.
- Ensure that no child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

What is intimate care:

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 staff member's duty of care. The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful of the child's needs. The child's dignity should always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control. **There shall 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.

What we will do:

- Carefully plan the management of all children with intimate care needs. The child who requires intimate care will be treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.
- Ensure that staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Child Protection and Health and Safety training) and are fully aware of best practice.
- Ensure 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 and menstruation. Wherever possible staff who are involved in the intimate care of children/young people will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex education to the children/young people in their care as an additional safeguard to both staff and children/young people involved.
- Ensure that the child 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 he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing or wiping themselves.
- Draw up individual intimate care plans for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child. Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Where possible one child will be catered for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented.
- Ensure that wherever possible staff should only care intimately for an individual of the same sex. However, in certain circumstances this principle may need to be waived where failure to provide appropriate care would result in negligence for example, female staff supporting boys in a primary school, as no male staff are available.
- Discuss intimate care arrangements with parents/carers on a regular basis and record this on the child's care plan. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

Ensuring the Protection of Children

- Education Child Protection Procedures and Inter-Agency Child Protection procedures will be adhered to.
- All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.
- If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the designated person for child protection. (Head teacher or, in her absence, Inclusion Manager)
- 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 this process in order to reach a resolution.
- Staffing schedules will be altered, where possible, until the issue(s) are resolved so that the child's needs remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed (see Allegations Against Staff Policy for details).

Further Guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications>

- 'Working Together To Safeguard Children', Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures March 2015 - Department of Health
- What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused (March 2015 - Department of Health)