

WISBOROUGH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Wisborough Green Primary School
Intimate Care Policy**

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Introduction

Staff who work with children understand that the issue of intimate and personal care is a difficult one and will require staff to be respectful of children's needs.

Intimate and personal care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene which may demand direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the genitals. Examples may include care associated with continence and menstruation as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing or bathing.

Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff who provide intimate and personal care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at Wisborough Green Primary School work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

Wisborough Green Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate and personal care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. Wisborough Green Primary School understands that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given.

OUR APPROACH TO BEST PRACTICE

All children who require intimate and personal care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including in Child Protection) and are fully aware of best practice. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from Physiotherapist/ Occupational Therapist as required.

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.

There will be careful communication with each child and /or their parent/carer, as appropriate, that has needed help with intimate care. A book will be written in each time an adult carries out this care.

As a basic principle children 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 them as they can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves.

Individual intimate and personal care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child. Where appropriate, a risk assessment is carried out to address issues such as moving and handling, and personal safety of the child and the carer.

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. When a child needs help with intimate and personal care when possible the child will be cared for by one adult, with an additional adult witness present.

Parents/carers will be involved with their child's intimate and personal care arrangements on a regular basis; a clear account of the agreed arrangements will be recorded on the child's care plan. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be carefully considered alongside any possible constraints; e.g. staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Child Protection Procedures will be accessible to staff.

Where appropriate, 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 appropriate designated person for child protection.

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. 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.

Agreed with Staff: Spring 2016

Reviewed: Autumn 2019

Next review: Autumn 2021