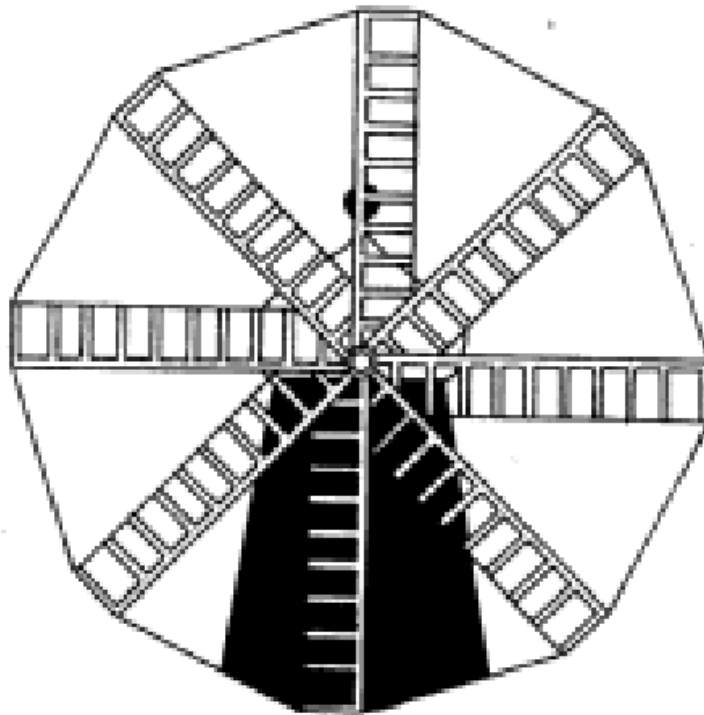


Intimate Care Policy

Heckington St. Andrew's C of E Primary School

Respect + Responsibility + Relationships + Resilience + Reverence
Five Rs = Ready for Life

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10



Approved by: Staffing & Wellbeing Committee

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1. Introduction

The Governing Board is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment.

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. In the case of a specific procedure only a person suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure.

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.

Heckington St. Andrew's C of E 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. Heckington St. Andrew's C of E Primary School recognises 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.

2. Aims

This policy sets out the procedures for dealing with toileting and personal/intimate care tasks with utmost professionalism, dignity and respect of the children and the maintenance of highest health and safety standards possible. The aim being to safeguard children, parent's, staff and the school by providing a consistent approach within a framework which recognises the rights and responsibilities of everyone involved.

3. Approach to Best Practice

Heckington St. Andrew's C of E 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:

- The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires intimate care is treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.
- Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Child Protection and Health and Safety training in lifting and moving) 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. 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.
- 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 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 carers 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. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented.
- 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 carers known to the child who will take turns in providing care. This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, whilst at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers.
- 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.

- Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded 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.

4. The Protection of Children

Heckington St. Andrew's C of E Primary School's Safeguarding Procedure, 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 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. Staffing schedules will need to be altered until the issue is resolved as the child's needs remain paramount. If a child makes allegations against a member of staff, necessary procedures will be followed (see Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy).

All adults carrying out intimate care or toileting tasks will be employees of the school and enhanced DBS checks will be in place to ensure the safety of the children. Students on work placement, voluntary staff or other parents working at the school will not be permitted to attend to toileting or intimate care tasks.

5. Children wearing Nappies / Pads

It is good practice to provide information for parents of the policy and practice in the school. Any child wearing nappies will have an intimate care plan which must be signed by the parent/carer outlining who will be responsible, within the school, for changing the child and when and where this will be carried out. This agreement allows the school and the parent to be aware of all the issues surrounding this task right from the outset. (This agreement will include the child's 1:1 support).

We will record who changes a child, how often this task is carried out and the time they left/returned to the classroom following this task. Examples of such good practice provide reassurance for parents that systems are in place and that schools have implemented procedures for staff to follow.

6. Equipment Provision

Parents have a role to play when their child is still wearing nappies. The parent should provide nappies, disposal bags, wipes, changing mat etc. and parents should be made aware of this responsibility. Schools are responsible for providing gloves, plastic aprons, a bin and liners to dispose of any waste.

7. Health and Safety

Staff should always wear an apron and gloves when dealing with a child who is bleeding or soiled or when changing a soiled nappy. Any soiled waste should be placed in a polythene waste disposal bag, which can be sealed. This bag should then be placed in a bin (complete with a liner) which is specifically designated for the disposal of such waste. The bin should be emptied on a weekly basis and it can be collected as part of the usual refuse collection service as this waste is not classed as clinical waste. Staff should be aware of the school's Health and Safety policy.

Any requests from the parents for use of medical ointments/creams, these should be prescribed by the GP and clearly labelled with the child's name. These should not be shared between other children and should be stored in a locked storage facility in line with our Medicines Policy.

8. 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.

9. 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 staff make physical contact with children 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 pupils' 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 deviation from arrangements is anticipated. Any deviation from the agreed plan must be documented and reported.

10. First Aid and intimate care

Staff who administer first aid should ensure wherever possible that another adult or other children are present. The pupil's dignity must always be considered and where contact of a more intimate nature is required (e.g. assisting with toileting or the removal of wet/soiled clothing), another member of staff should be in the vicinity and should be made aware of the task being undertaken.

Regular requirements of an intimate nature should be planned for. Agreements between the school/organisation, those with parental responsibility and the child concerned should be documented and easily understood. The necessity for such requirements should be reviewed regularly. The child's views must also be actively sought and, in particular, any discomfort with the arrangements addressed, (see Intimate Care Model Policy and Guidance) .

11. Links to other policies

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Positive Handling
- Anti-bullying
- Anti-radicalisation
- Behaviour
- Exclusion
- Health and Safety
- Code of Conduct for staff
- Managing allegations of abuse against staff
- Equalities
- Admission
- Whistleblowing

Appendix 1: Intimate Care and Toileting Parental Consent Form

Name of Child:	
Date of Birth:	
Class/Teacher:	
Care required and how often during the day	
Member(s) of staff who will carry out the tasks – all staff need to be fully aware of toileting /intimate care plan and school priorities	
Name:	
Signature:	
Where will the tasks be carried out and what equipment/resources will be required to safely carry out the procedures:	
Infection Control and Disposal Procedures in place:	
Actions that will be taken if any concerns arise:	
Parent's responsibility to provide:	

Any School/Home agreement of care/management plan or communication via school-home diary (if required):

Other professionals involved in care/advisory role: (school nurse, health visitor, etc.)

Additional Information:

I/We have read the Intimate Care Policy provided by Heckington St. Andrew's C of E Primary School. I/We give permission for the named member(s) of staff to attend to the care needs of my/our child and are in agreement with the procedures proposed.

Name of Parent/Carer:

Signature:

Head Teacher:

Signature:

Date:

