



SHEFFORD LOWER SCHOOL

Intimate Care Policy 2020

As adopted by our school from advice given by two unions for teachers and one for head teachers

Date of formal review: January 2020 Review date: January 2023

Persons responsible for the implementation and monitoring of this policy:

Signed: Jenni Wood Safeguarding governor Signed: Pamela Finch Head teacher

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

This policy should be read in conjunction with impacted policies related to equity and inclusion, such as the schools policy for inclusion, our equality statement and our policies to support pupils with additional needs.

Rationale

Sheffield Lower School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for intimate care of children and young people will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. This school takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care, and to provide an ethical route for all decisions made putting children foremost.

The Disability Discrimination Act which requires that any child with an impairment that affects his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against. Our school leaders, including governors, respect their duties as aligned to the care of young people. Children and young people will be treated with respect when intimate care is given.

No child shall be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain. Staff will work in close partnership with parents and carers to share information and provide continuity of care.

Definition:

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure that most children and young people carry out for themselves, but which some are unable to do. Disabled pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support. Our approach to best practice:

- The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned.
- Staff who provide intimate care will be trained to do so and will be fully aware of best practice.
- There will be careful communication with any pupil who requires intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication to discuss needs and preferences.
- 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.
- Pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible, according to their individual condition and abilities.
- Individual care plans will be drawn up for any pupil requiring regular intimate care.

- Careful consideration will be given to individual situations to determine how many adults should be present during intimate care procedures. Where possible one pupil will be cared for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. In such a case, the reasons will be documented.
- Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the 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.

General need and younger children:

Where a care plan is not in place and a child needs help with intimate care (in the case of a toilet 'accident') then parents/carers will be informed the same day. This information should be treated as confidential.

- Wherever possible a child shall get changed themselves within a toilet with adult waiting outside
- If this is not possible an adult will support, **ensuring that another member of staff is present and is aware of what is happening**
- IN ALL CASES – if a child has needed to be changed or has got themselves changed their parent / carer must be informed

Child Protection:

The Governors and staff of Shefford Lower School recognise that disabled children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of abuse. Child Protection and Multi-Agency Child Protection procedures will be adhered to at all times. If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation (unexplained marks, bruises or soreness for example) s/he will immediately report concerns to the Designated Person for Child Protection as outlined in our policy and displayed throughout the school.