



Knowsley Central School

Intimate Care Policy

Reviewed by: Paul Lambert **Date:** September 2020

Last reviewed on: September 2020

Next review due by: September 2021 (Annually)



Introduction

Knowsley Central School recognises that when supporting a child with intimate care needs, the child's welfare and dignity is paramount. We are committed to ensuring that no child shall be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment, discomfort or pain. We recognise that there is a need for children to be treated with respect when intimate care is given.

Intimate care is a vital part of everyday life for some of our young people and staff conduct any intimate care with respect and ensure the child's dignity is maintained at all times.

The main aims of this policy and procedure are:

- To recognise the importance and need for Intimate care in our school setting.
- To provide parent/carers with a clear guide on how staff will implement Intimate care.
- Provide guidance on procedures and practices that safeguard our children.
- Provide guidance on procedures and practices that protect our staff.

Definition

Care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene which demand direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the genitals. This may include issues with continence, menstrual management as well as washing and bathing.

Best Practice

Children's welfare and dignity will be preserved at all times during intimate care and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff providing intimate care will have a high level of awareness and training within child protection. Staff's behaviour is always open to scrutiny and staff at Knowsley Central work in partnership with parents and carer's to provide continuity of care to the children and young people wherever possible.

School deliver a personal care curriculum as part of the PSHCE curriculum in line with their developmental level and degree of understanding. This is shared with parents & carers who are encouraged to reinforce the messages at home.

Knowsley Central 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.

Equipment will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from a physiotherapist/ occupational therapist or advice from the continence team 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.

Pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible, according to their individual abilities, for example, giving the child responsibility for wiping or washing themselves.

An Individual Health Care Plan/Intimate Care Plan will be drawn up for any pupil requiring regular intimate care. Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the Individual Health Care Plan/Intimate 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.

There will be a number of adults in each class 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, while at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers.

The protection of children

Education Safeguarding Procedures and Inter Agency Child Protection procedures will be accessible to all staff and adhered to.

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 schools designated safeguarding lead. A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred to the appropriate agencies. Parents will be asked for their consent or informed that a referral is necessary prior to it being made unless doing so is likely to place the child at greater risk of harm.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared 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 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.

Knowsley Central School will continually monitor, evaluate and review our Intimate care policy. Monitoring will assess whether the Intimate care policy is being effectively implemented and evaluation will measure whether the policy is effective and identify changes that need to be made.