



Princes Primary School

Intimate Care & Physical Contact Policy

March 2022

This policy forms an essential element of our safeguarding policies and procedures. In implementing this policy, staff must recognise the links between the intimate care/physical contact policy and other school policies and arrangements, including the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and Whistleblowing policy.

Value and Ethos

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

This 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 all children and young people in its care.

The Governing Body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010, 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. Disabled pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support. Staff will work in close partnership with parents and carers to share information and provide continuity of care.

Physical Contact

Physical contact constitutes a necessary and integral part of the education of pupils at Princes Primary School. It may be used to facilitate growth or to meet needs within the following areas:

- Emotional development
- Educational development
- Physical development
- Personal/Social development
- Behavioural development
- Personal care
- Physical support to access the curriculum
- Physical support to engage appropriately in speech therapy, occupational therapy, swimming, physiotherapy, swimming.

Support may involve gentle physical prompting to ensure curriculum/environmental access. For pupils with behavioural difficulties, touch may be required to prevent personal injury, injury to

others, or damage to the environment. Adults in school use the following types of acceptable physical contact:

- Moving pupil's head to gain eye contact, or to ensure that a pupil is able to listen
- Physical prompting
- A small hug for comfort and reassurance when a pupil is distressed.
- Co-active feeding
- Oral skills (for example teeth cleaning) as part of PSHE
- Removing objects from a pupil's mouth
- Choking
- Wiping or cleaning a pupil when they have finished (or during) a meal
- Swimming
 - Changing pupils
 - Safety and support in the water
 - Teaching techniques in the pool
 - Holding hands when walking
- In PE and on outside equipment
 - Co-active support to access equipment
 - Saving a pupil from falling
 - Holding a pupil on moving and static apparatus
 - To model movement or technique in a lesson
 - To correctly position the body when coaching new practices
- Playtimes
- Personal Care
 - Wiping noses
 - Washing faces
 - Applying suntan lotion
- Strapping children into vehicles
- Administration of medication
- Physical restraint – only in line with the behaviour policy

Definition of Intimate Care

Some pupils may require intimate care for their comfort and dignity. Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching, or carrying out a 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.

Best Practice

The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and requires staff to be respectful of the child's needs. The child's dignity will always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice, and control. No child will be supported in a way that causes unnecessary distress or pain. Princes Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of pupils will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. Our policy for intimate care aims to provide guidance and reassurance to staff. It safeguards the rights and well-being of pupils and assures parents/carers that all staff are knowledgeable about intimate care. Staff who provide intimate care are taught to be aware of best practice, and the need to comply with school policies including:

- Child Protection

- Health and Safety
- Risk Assessment and Medical Details

Staff will have regard to confidentiality of this information. Sensitive information about a child will only be shared with those who need-to-know.

Staff have responsibility for effective organisation of hygiene resources in care rooms. Staff always wear protective gloves and aprons during intimate care routines and disinfect changing beds after use. Parents/carers provide a child's intimate care hygienic materials. Apparatus may need to be provided for pupils who need special arrangements following assessment from a physiotherapist/occupational therapist as required.

Staff will be responsive to any apprehensions, discomfort or disapproval shown by a pupil. Photographs, objects of reference, symbols and words will be used as a communication tool with pupils who require additional support.

Staff will work in partnership with parents to ensure consistency of approach. The need and wishes of children will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation. Provision may be amended in the light of individual needs, but we promote each person's right to equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life, including the provision of intimate care.

Staff will be supported and encouraged to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual pupils, taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation. The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy possible, given their age and abilities.

Matters concerning intimate care will not be recorded on individual pupil's crowns as it is not a confidential document. Communication relating to personal care will be made through a sealed letter, personal contact, or a telephone call between a staff member and parent/carer.

Where 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. It is not usually practicable from the point of view of staffing resources for there to be two members of staff involved with a child for intimate care unless for health and safety reasons e.g., with a child who is ill or difficult to move or handle. The best interests of the child need to be considered in making such decisions on staff. Whilst the presence of two people may be seen as providing protection against a possible allegation of abuse against a member of staff, it further erodes the privacy of the child. Ensuring that the member of staff makes their intentions and purpose known to others before commencing intimate care with a child is a sensible precaution.

There will be a high awareness of child protection issues where intimate care is provided. Princes Primary School follow the procedures set out by Liverpool Local Authority and take account of guidance issued by the DfE 'Safeguarding Children in Education'. All staff are trained in Child Protection Awareness, and this training is regularly updated. If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, (for example marks, bruises, soreness) she/he will immediately report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ellie Jones) or deputies (Col Hughes, Maxine Cooper, Jo Cree) in line with Local Authority guidelines.

Safeguarding

The Governors and staff of Princes Primary School recognise that disabled children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of abuse.

Within the terms of our Safeguarding Child Protection Policy, when 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 Safeguarding Lead.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Review

Princes will continually monitor, evaluate and review the intimate care policy. Monitoring will assess whether the policy is being effectively implemented. Evaluation will measure whether the policy is effective and identify changes that need to be made.

The policy will be reviewed annually.