

Eastbury Community School Intimate Care Policy

Introduction

Eastbury Community 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. The school takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the 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.

We recognise that there is a need for children and young people to 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. Pupils with a disability 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 are trained to do so (including Child Protection, and Moving and Handling where appropriate) and fully aware of best practice
- There is 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
- 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/carers will be taken into account wherever possible, within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation

- Where a care plan is not in place and a child has needed 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 and communicated in person, by telephone or by sealed letter

Safeguarding

The Governors and staff of Eastbury Community School recognise that children with a disability 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.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for a particular member of staff, the matter will be investigated at an appropriate level and outcomes recorded.

Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of the process of reaching a resolution. Further advice will be taken from partner agencies. If a child makes an allegation about a member of staff, this will be investigated in accordance with agreed procedures.

Signed..... (Head of School)

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