

# Westacre Infant School



## Intimate Care Policy

Headteacher: Mr A Edmunds

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Westacre Infant School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We are 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. We are committed to ensuring that children are treated with sensitivity and respect.

### **What is intimate care?**

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. Intimate care tasks are associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene that demands direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of the genitals. Examples include support with dressing and undressing (underwear), changing nappies, helping someone use the toilet or washing intimate parts of the body, cleaning a pupil who has soiled him/herself or vomited. It is also associated with other accidents that may require a child to remove their clothes. These include changes required as a result of water play, messy play, sickness and weather. Disabled pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

### **Practicalities**

It is generally expected that most children will be toilet trained and out of nappies before they begin at school or nursery. However, we recognise that children will join Westacre Infant School, having reached differing levels of independence and development in toileting and self-care. Therefore it is inevitable that from time to time some children will have accidents and need to be attended to.

In addition to this, an increasing number of children and young people with disabilities and medical conditions are being included in mainstream settings. A significant number of these pupils require adult assistance for their personal and intimate care needs. In order to help the children to become aware of their bodily needs and respond to them in time, those who wish to go to the toilet are always allowed to go.

Children in the EYFS have access to the toilet whenever they need to and are encouraged to be as independent as is age and developmentally appropriate. They are reminded at regular times to go to the

toilet and are also encouraged to wash their hands after the toilet. As children progress through the school, they are encouraged to use the toilet during break times.

### **Role of staff**

Staff have access to a dedicated changing room with access to warm water. There is also a stock of baby wipes, plastic bags and disposable protective gloves for staff to use. If a child soils him/herself during school time, two members of staff (teacher, teaching assistant, dinner supervisor) will help the child:

- Remove their soiled clothes.
- Clean skin (this usually includes bottom, genitalia, legs, feet).
- Dress in the child's own clothes or those provided by the school.
- Wrap soiled clothes in plastic bags and give to parents to take home.

At all times the member of staff pays attention to the level of distress and comfort of the child. If the child is ill the member of staff will telephone the parent/carer. In the event a child is reluctant to accept intimate care and finally refuses, the parent/carer will be contacted immediately.

Our intention is that the child will never be left in soiled clothing, and as soon as a member of staff is aware of the situation, she/he will clean the child. The member of staff responsible will check the child regularly and ensure that he/she is clean before leaving to go home. The child will experience only positive encouragement and praise for his/her efforts to manage toileting. Staff will avoid drawing attention to such events and positively encourage the child in his/her efforts to gain these skills.

There is careful communication with any pupil who requires intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication to discuss needs and preferences.

### **Child Protection**

Child Protection procedures will be adhered to at all times. All members of staff carrying out intimate care procedures have enhanced DBS. Students should only do so under the supervision of a trained member of staff. It is not appropriate for volunteers to carry out intimate care procedures. If a child makes an allegation about a member of staff, this will be investigated in accordance with agreed procedures.

## **Disabilities**

The Governing Body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to 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.

## **Role of parents/carers**

When children are showing signs of being ready to be toilet trained parents are expected to discuss this with staff so we can work together to support the child in becoming more independent. Where a child has continuing incontinence problems (including children beyond EYFS), parents are expected to provide a complete set of spare clothes and baby wipes.

## Permission Form for Intimate Care

If a child wets, soils or needs help with toileting whilst they are in school, it is important that measures are taken to have them changed and if necessary cleaned as quickly as possible.

Our staff are experienced at carrying out this task if you wish them to do so or, if preferred, the school can contact you or your emergency contact who will be asked to attend without delay.

Westacre Infant School has an Intimate Care Policy which is available to view on our website.

Please fill out the permission slip below stating your preference.

**Name of Child**.....

**Class**.....

*Please tick as appropriate*

I **do** give consent for my child to be changed and cleaned if they wet/soil themselves whilst in the care of Westacre Infant School.

I **do not** give consent for my child to be changed and cleaned if they wet or soil themselves. The school will contact me or my emergency contact and I will organise for my child to be cleaned and changed. I understand that in the event that I or my emergency contact cannot be contacted, the staff will act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid my child.

**Signature of Parent/Carer**.....

**Date**.....