



Kingsway Infant School

Intimate Care Policy

Intimate care can be defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas which most people usually carry out themselves, however some children are unable to do because of their young age, physical difficulties or other special needs. Examples include care associated with continence as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing, toileting or dressing. It also includes supervision of children involved with intimate self-care.

Procedure

There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic etc.) to discuss their needs and preferences. Where the child is of an appropriate age and level of understanding, permission should be sought before starting an intimate procedure. All children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for him/herself as possible.

Care Plans

Children who require regular assistance with intimate care will have written care plans agreed by staff, parents/carers and any other professionals actively involved, such as school nurses or physiotherapists. These plans include a full risk assessment to address issues such as moving and handling, personal safety of the child and the carer. Any historical concerns should be noted and taken into account. Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the child's 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.

Communication

Where a care plan is not in place, parents/carers will be informed the same day if their child has needed help with meeting intimate care needs (e.g. has had an 'accident' and soiled him/herself). It is recommended practice that information on intimate care should be treated as confidential and communicated in person or by telephone.

Should a toileting accident occur, the school will send home the soiled/wet clothing and make clean clothes available. We politely request that you return them to school as soon as possible, washed and dried. A second member of staff will always be present and aware of the task being undertaken.

All staff should be aware of the school's Confidentiality Policy. Sensitive information will be shared only with those who need to know. If necessary, advice should be taken from the local council regarding disposal of large amounts of waste products. It is good practice to record every time a child requires assistance with intimate care, including date, times and any comments such as changes in the child's behaviour and who was present.