



**Building Personal Success**

## **Intimate Care Policy**

**Reviewed by:** Olusola Awelenje

**Date:** October 2023

**Next review date:** October 2024

## **Introduction**

Brampton Primary School, is committed to ensure that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times.

We recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

## **Aims:**

The intimate care policy aims to provide a clear framework for staff to ensure the safety and dignity of all children who need support with all types of personal care and continence management. It will also clarify for children and their families the support they can expect from school. We aim to:

- Safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of children.
- Provide guidance and reassurance to staff whose role includes intimate care.
- Assure parents that staff are knowledgeable about personal care and that their individual concerns are considered.

## **Definition**

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up after a child has soiled him/herself) to intimate personal areas. In most cases, such care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene and the cleaning of equipment associated with the process as part of a staff member's duty of care.

## **School responsibilities**

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires intimate care is treated with respect at all times; the child's *safety* and dignity is of paramount importance.

*We will ensure that* staff who provide this care are trained to do so (including safeguarding and Moving and Handling) and are fully aware of best practice. Suitable equipment and facilities will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from the school's risk assessors. Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of the individual children taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty.

*We will ensure that* staff will communicate carefully with children, using their preferred means of communication, to discuss their needs and preferences. Wherever possible the children's wishes and preferences will be taken into account.

The children will be supported to achieve the highest level of self-help that is possible, given their age and abilities. *We will ensure that* Staff will encourage each child to do as much for him/herself as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibilities for cleaning after themselves. Each child's right to privacy will be respected. In Brampton Primary School, two adults will cater to one child during personal care unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present.

All members of staff will use sensitive and appropriate LANGUAGE to describe and explain personal care arrangements. We will not, for example, talk about "toileting" or refer to the pupil in any careless or thoughtless manner. For example, we use the phrase "personal care" as a more sensitive use of language. We will not talk over pupils' heads about personal care arrangements. WE WILL ALWAYS TREAT OUR PUPILS WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT.

### **The Protection of children**

We will strictly adhere to safeguarding procedures. All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of ability, development and understanding. If a member of staff has any concern about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. they will immediately record any concerns and report it to the appropriate members of the safeguarding team as laid out in the school's safeguarding policy.

### **Photography/ Video**

**Under no circumstance whatsoever do we ever photograph or video pupils in the toilet unless we have a parent's written permission.**

### **Staffing of personal care arrangements**

In our school, men and women conduct personal care for girls and boys. We respect children's individual backgrounds and culture and consult with parents to ensure they are aware of who is carrying out personal care with their child. While we will do our best to meet parent's wishes relating to personal care, in emergency situations, we always have to do what is best for the needs of the child. Agency staff may be involved with personal care but always with an experienced member of staff.

### **Governing body's responsibilities**

To ensure that sufficient staff are trained to meet the needs of their learners.

The governing body will monitor and review this policy is annually.

### **Parent/carer responsibilities**

Parents/carers must make sure that school always has required equipment available for their child's intimate care.