

Leamington Community Primary School

'Together we make a Difference'



Intimate Care Policy

Reviewed by Governors: October 2020
Created by Miss. N Boyd and Mrs Tyson

Leamington Community Primary School **INTIMATE CARE POLICY**

At Leamington Community Primary School there are a number of pupils who need support with their personal care needs. Leamington caters for pupils with a range of different needs. Pupil's needs will vary dependent on their physical and cognitive characteristics but the same principles apply for all groups.

Leamington Community 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. It is acknowledged that these adults are in a position of great trust.

Leamington Community Primary School takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the pupils in its care.

The school recognises that there is a need to treat all pupils with dignity and respect when intimate care is given. 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. Some pupils 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 fully aware of best practice.
- All staff are aware of the importance of "not talking across a pupil."
- All pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible in their personal care e.g. a pupil may only require a verbal prompt to wash their hands after using the toilet.
- Where specialist equipment and facilities, above that currently available in the school are required, every effort will be made to provide appropriate facilities in a timely fashion, following assessment by a Physiotherapist and/or Occupational Therapist.
- 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.
- Individual care will be discussed with medical teams and parents for any pupil requiring regular intimate care. This is discussed as part of the annual review process and informally with class teachers.
- Continence specialists will be available to give advice to school as requested through education and medical staff.
- Careful consideration will be given to individual situations to determine how many adults should be present during intimate care procedures.
- Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis.
- The needs and wishes of children and parents 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, via telephone.

Child Protection:

The Governors and staff of Leamington Community Primary School recognise that disabled and SEN children 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 Child Protection lead.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by 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.