



Leamington Community Primary School

Together we make a Difference

Intimate Care Policy



Completed by: Miss. N Boyd/Mrs. S Tyson

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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. We cater 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 its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the pupils in its care seriously.

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.

Aims:

- To ensure that pupils with intimate care needs are not discriminated against in line with the Equalities Act 2010.
- To provide help and support to pupils in becoming as independent as possible in personal hygiene.
- To treat intimate care needs sensitively so as to maintain the self-esteem of the child.
- Work with parents in delivering a suitable care plan where necessary.
- To ensure that staff dealing with intimate care needs work within guidelines that protect themselves and the pupils involved.

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 Safeguarding training) and are 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.
- Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes.
- Careful consideration will be given to individual situations to determine how many adults should be present during intimate care procedures.

- The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible, within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.
- There is careful communication with any pupil who requires intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication to discuss needs and preferences.
- Individual care will be discussed with medical teams and parents/carers for any pupil requiring regular intimate care. This is discussed as part of the annual review process and informally with class teachers.
- Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis.
- 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.
- Where specialist equipment and facilities (above that currently available in 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.
- Continence specialists will be available to give advice to school as requested through education and medical staff.

Safeguarding and Child Protection:

The governors and staff of Leamington Community Primary School recognise that disabled and SEND 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 etc.) they will follow the school's safeguarding procedures and immediately report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of the safeguarding team, if the DSL is unavailable. These concerns will also be recorded on the school's CPOMS system.

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 when appropriate.

If a child makes an allegation about a member of staff this will be investigated in accordance with agreed procedures.

Please see our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy for further information (available on the school website or at the school office upon request).