



# DOWNHOLLAND HASKAYNE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## INTIMATE CARE POLICY

Downholland Haskayne CE Primary 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.

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 demand direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of the genitals. Examples include support with dressing and undressing (underwear), changing incontinence pads and nappies, helping someone use the toilet or washing intimate parts of the body. Disabled pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

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.

We recognise that there is a need for children and young people to be treated with respect when intimate care is given. No child shall be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain. Staff will work in close partnership with parents and carers to share information and provide continuity of care. 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, although they are encouraged as they progress through the school to use the toilet during break times. The school undertakes to attempt any support any training programme requested by a child's GP and/or the school nurse or parent.

Staff in the Early Years communicates with parents around arrangements for changing children and what this entails. This also forms part of discussions between staff members and parents during times of transition, for example moving from Nursery to Reception. Where a child has continuing incontinence problems, parents are expected to continue to provide a complete set of spare clothes and 'baby-wipes', however, where this is not possible the school will provide these. The school also keeps a stock of spare clothes in various sizes. If further support is needed the school will seek further advice by a referral to the School Nurse.

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 telephones the parent/carer. In the event a child is reluctant and finally refuses, the parent/carer will be contacted immediately.

All 2 and 3 year old children will be assigned a key worker who will support them during toilet training and will be responsible for their toileting and self-care needs.

It is intended that the child will not experience any negative disciplining, but only positive encouragement and praise for his/her endeavours to master this necessary skill. It is always our intention to avoid drawing attention to such events and positively to encourage the child in his/her efforts to gain these skills.

EYFS staff has access to a bathroom area with a toilet and hand basin with access to warm water. There is also a stock of baby wipes, plastic bags and disposable protective gloves for staff to use, which they must do. If a child soils him/herself during school time, one member of the staff will help the child, another member of staff will be available for safeguarding reasons:

- To remove their soiled clothes themselves
- Child to clean skin (this usually includes bottom, genitalia, legs, feet)
- Dress in the child's own clothes or those provided by the school or home
- Double wrap soiled clothes in plastic bags and give to parents to take home Our approach to best practice for ultimate care needs over and above accidents.
- The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned.
- 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 such as the onset of puberty and menstruation.
- Pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible, according to their individual condition and abilities.
- Individual care plans will be drawn up for any pupil requiring regular intimate care
- Careful consideration will be given to individual situations to determine how many adults should be present during intimate care procedures. At least two adults should be present for safeguarding reasons.
- 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 if possible.
- This information should be treated as confidential and communicated in person or via telephone.

Whenever a child has had an accident in terms of their toileting needs, we will record the use of intimate care on SIMs.

#### **Child Protection:**

The Governors and staff of Downholland Haskayne CE Primary School recognise that disabled 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 Senior Leader for Child Protection.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for a particular member of staff, the matter will be investigated at an appropriate level and will 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.

**Equality Statement:**

A Downholland Haskayne CE Primary School, we seek actively to encourage equity and equality through our work. No gender, race, creed or ethnicity will be discriminated against. The school's Disability Equality Scheme will be followed and the use of stereotypes under any of the above headings will always be challenged.

Signed Governors:

Reviewed: July 2024 Next review date: July 2027