

Saint Augustine's Catholic Primary School



Part of Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust Intimate Care Policy

SENDCo & Inclusion Leader: Mrs Sarah
Bennett

senco@staugustinespreston.co.uk

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Introduction

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff assisting with 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 and dignity when intimate care is given. No child is attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

Children's dignity is preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control is provided to them. Staff that provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care.

Definition

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to intimate personal areas. In most cases, such care involves procedures to do with personal hygiene and the cleaning of associated equipment as part of the staff member's duty of care. In the case of specific procedures only the staff suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure (e.g. the administration of rectal diazepam).

Our Approach to Best Practice

It is expected that all children will arrive at school fully toilet-trained and require minimum adult assistance e.g. in the case of occasional "accidents". However, in exceptional circumstances, i.e. medical need, the management of all children with intimate care needs is carefully planned. A child who requires regular care is treated with respect at all times: the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so, including Child Protection and Moving and Handling and are fully aware of best practice. Suitable equipment and facilities are provided to assist children who need special arrangements following assessment from a Physiotherapist/Occupational Therapist.

Staff are supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children, taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty or menstruation.

Children are expected 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 they are able.

Individual intimate care plans are drawn up for children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child and in consultation with parents/carers, GPs, practice nurses and professionals from the Continence Service.

Each child's right to privacy is respected. Careful consideration is given to each child's situation to determine how many staff will need to be present when the child is toileted, but, wherever possible, children should be cared for by two adults in line with Child Protection procedures.

Wherever possible the child should be cared for by adults of the same sex. However, in certain circumstances this principle may need to be waived where the failure to provide appropriate care would result in negligence for example, female staff supporting boys in our school, if no male staff are available.

Intimate care arrangements are discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded via the CPOMs system. The needs and wishes of children and parents are taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

The Protection of Children

Child Protection Procedures will be adhered to.

If any member of staff has concerns about physical changes to a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the appropriate Designated Safeguarding Lead.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter is looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers are contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of the process in order to reach a resolution.