

# Intimate Care Policy

## Trewirgie Infants' & Nursery School



**Approved by:** [Clair Bateman]

**Date:** [28 September 2020]

**Last reviewed on:** [28 September 2020]

**Next review due by:** []

## **Safeguarding**

Trewirgie Nursery & Infants School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. We expect all our team members to share this commitment.

### **Introduction**

- Staff who work with young children or vulnerable children/young people who have special needs, will realise that the issue of intimate care is a difficult one and will require staff to be respectful of children's needs
- Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene which demand direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the genitals. Examples include care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing or bathing
- Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at Trewirgie Infants work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible
- Staff deliver a full personal safety curriculum, as part of Personal, Social and Health Education, to all children as appropriate to their developmental level and degree of understanding. This work is shared with parents/carers who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages within the home
- Trewirgie Infants is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. Staff will treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain

### **Our Approach to Best Practice**

- All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully 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 Health and Safety training in moving and handling) and are fully aware of best practice. Equipment will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/occupational therapist as required
- 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. Wherever possible staff who are involved in the intimate care of children/young people will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex and relationship education to their children/young people as an additional safeguard to both staff and children/young people involved
- There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic, etc.) to discuss the child's needs and preferences. The child is aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it
- As a basic principle children will be supported 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 themselves as they can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves. Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child and in consultation with parents/carers. These plans include a full risk assessment to address issues such as moving and handling, personal safety of the child and the carer and health

- Trewirgie Infants recognises that every child has the right to be accepted for who they are without regard to race, culture and beliefs and will ensure that the values of the parent/carer and child/young person are taken into account when developing an individual intimate care plan
- Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many carers might need to be present when a child needs help with intimate care
- It is possible that the same child may not always be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis
- Parents/carers will be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements on a regular basis; a clear account of the agreed arrangements will be recorded on the child's care plan. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be carefully considered alongside any possible constraints; e.g. staffing and equal opportunities legislation

### **The Protection of Children**

- Trewirgie Infants Child Protection Procedures and the South West Child Protection Procedures ([www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk)) will be accessible to staff and adhered to
- Where appropriate, all children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding
- If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the DSL. A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred to social care and/or the Police if necessary. Parents/carers will be asked for their consent or informed that a referral is necessary prior to it being made unless doing so is likely to place the child at greater risk of harm. A copy of the school's Child Protection Procedures is available in the School Office and on the website
- If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution. Staffing schedules will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved so that the child's needs remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary
- If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed (see the school's Child Protection Procedures and the South West Child Protection Procedures [www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk)). This includes referring to the Local Authority Designated Officer, 01872 254547

### **Health and Safety**

- When changing nappies and/or dealing with wet/soiled items, staff must wear fresh gloves each time and dispose of them in the appropriate waste bin.

### **Soiling of Children not subject to a Care Plan**

- Due to the young age of the children, on occasion they may wet or soil themselves during the school day. If a member of staff becomes aware that a child has wet or soiled themselves, the teacher will be informed immediately. A member of staff will change the child in accordance with Intimate Care Policy and Appendix A. The member of staff will take appropriate action to safeguard the child's dignity in line with the guidance in Appendix A. Parent Permission forms are completed by the parent if a child needs to be checked or changed regularly. This form will be kept in the class purple file. If the child is taken to the disabled toilet to be changed then two members of staff must attend to ensure that they safeguard the child's dignity. The class teacher or Teaching Assistant will inform any parent at the end of the day if a child has needed to be changed.

## **Appendix A**

### **Staff Guidelines**

The below guidelines should always be adhered to when changing a child and dealing with wet/soiled items.

- If any member of staff becomes aware that a child has wet/soiled their clothing, the teacher should be informed immediately. A member of staff changing a child will ensure that they do so in an appropriate place
- Staff must wear disposable gloves when dealing with an incident
- A fresh pair of disposable gloves must be worn for each change
- Gloves and wipes should be placed in the Nappy Bin in the Disabled Toilet or in the bathroom bin within the classroom toilets
- Staff must wash hands with warm soapy water after each change is completed
- All staff should take every care to ensure the child's privacy and dignity at all times