



Inspire Partnership Multi-Academy Trust Intimate Care Policy

Date	Review Date
September 2020	September 2023

Inspire Partnership Multi-Academy Trust believe intimate care is any activity such as feeding, oral care, washing, changing clothes, toileting, first aid and medical assistance, comforting and support, and supervising intimate self-care that is required to meet the personal needs of a child / young person regularly or during a one-off incident.

We have a duty to safeguard children and academy staff at all times. We must develop independence in each child but on those occasions when children need assistance they must feel safe, have personal privacy, feel valued, are treated with dignity and respect, are involved and consulted about their own intimate care with academy personnel that are specially trained in intimate care procedures.

We treat every child as an individual treating them gently and sensitively as possible.

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is:

- To safeguard the rights and promote the best interests of the children;
- To ensure children are treated with sensitivity and respect, and in such a way that their experience of intimate care is a positive one;
- To safeguard adults required to operate in sensitive situations;
- To raise awareness and provide a clear procedure for intimate care;
- To inform parents/carers in how intimate care is administered;
- To ensure parents/carers are consulted in the intimate of care of their children.

Aims

- To safeguard the rights of children;
- To safeguard academy staff trained in intimate care procedures.

Principles

It is essential that every child is treated as an individual and that care is given as gently and as sensitively as possible. As far as possible, the child should be allowed to exercise choice and should be encouraged to have a positive image of his/her own body. It is important for staff to bear in mind how they would feel in the child's position. Given the right approach, intimate care can provide opportunities to teach children about the value of their own bodies, to develop their safety skills and to enhance their self-esteem. Parents and staff should be aware that matters concerning intimate care will be dealt with confidentially and sensitively and that the young persons' right to privacy and dignity is maintained at all times.

Procedure

Role of the local Governing Board

The Local Governing Board has;

- Delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher in the delivery of this policy;
- Nominated a link governor to visit the academy regularly, to liaise with the Headteacher and to report back to the Local Governing Board;
- Responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will ensure:

- All academy staff are aware of this policy;
- All parents are aware of this policy;
- Academy staff who provide intimate care are suitably trained to do so;
- That new developments, resources and equipment are brought to the attention of the appropriate academy personnel;
- That this policy is monitored and evaluated and any recommendations for improvement are reported to the Local Governing Board.

Role of Academy staff with Responsibilities for Intimate Care

When touching a child, staff should always be aware of the possibility of invading a child's privacy and will respect the child's wishes and feelings. If a child needs to be cleaned, staff will make sure that:

- All staff must be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection, must follow basic hygiene procedures and have access to, and wear, protective, disposable gloves and apron;
- The procedure is discussed in a friendly and reassuring way with the child throughout the process;
- The child is encouraged to care for him/herself as far as possible;
- Physical contact is kept to the minimum possible to carry out the necessary cleaning;

- Privacy is given appropriate to the child's age and the situation;
- All large spills of vomit, blood or excrement are wiped up and flushed down the toilet;
- All small spills of vomit, blood or excrement are cleaned up and wipes/ disposable cloths/ gloves etc are disposed of in yellow bags in the yellow bin stored in the first aid room;
- Soiled clothing is put in a plastic bag, unwashed, and sent home with the child.

In addition to this Academy staff will:

- Receive training in Child Protection, First Aid, intimate care procedures and Health and Safety training in moving and handling;
- Be professional in their duties at all times;
- Be respectful of a child's needs;
- Preserve a child's dignity and respect with a high level of privacy, choice and control appropriate to the child's age and situation;
- Be aware of a child's method and level of communication;
- Make sure practice in intimate care is consistent;
- Be aware of their own limitations;
- Promote positive self-esteem and body image;
- Work in partnership with parents / carers;
- Report any concerns they have about a child;
- Report any concerns they have about a colleague's intimate care practice;
- Be aware of the danger of allegations being made against them;
- Take precautions to avoid risk

Protection for staff

Members of staff need to have regard to the danger of allegations being made against them and take precautions to avoid this risk. These should include:

- Gaining a verbal agreement from another member of staff that the action being taken is necessary;
- Allow the child, wherever possible, to express a preference to choose his/her carer and encourage them to say if they find a carer to be unacceptable;
- Allow the child a choice in the sequence of care;
- Be aware of and responsive to the child's reactions.
- Always providing intimate care alongside a second member of staff

Role of Parents

Parents will:

- Advise the academy of any known intimate care needs relating to their child;
- Be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements on a regular basis.


Rights of the Child

All children have the right to be treated:

- With sensitivity and respect in such a way that their experience of intimate care is a positive one;
- By professionals suitably trained and assessed to be competent to undertake procedures in intimate care.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed in line with the Policy Review Overview document every three years, or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the governors.

Headteacher:		Date:	
Chair of the Trust Board:		Date:	6 October 2020