

Love Determination Responsibility Respect Kindness Friendship Honesty



# Intimate Care Policy

September 2020

*This Policy will be reviewed by the Community and Safeguarding Committee every 3 years, or sooner in the event of a change in legislation.*

**Signed**

Head Teacher: Rosalind Owen

Chair of Governors: Elaine S. Bardwell

Date: 19 November 2020

All children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect. This is the overriding principle that guides St Michael's C of E Primary School's Intimate Care Policy. We will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that the intimate care needs of a child are met.

At St Michael's C of E Primary School, we define intimate and personal care as follows:

**Intimate Care:** Care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene, which demands direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, the sexual parts of the body. Intimate care tasks may include:

- dressing and undressing (underwear)
- helping someone use a potty or toilet
- changing nappies
- cleaning / wiping / washing intimate parts of the body.

**Personal Care:** Although it may involve touching another person, it is less intimate and usually has the function of helping with personal presentation. Personal care tasks may include:

- feeding
- administering oral medication
- hair care
- dressing and undressing (clothing)
- washing non-intimate body parts
- prompting to go to the toilet.

Children's intimate care needs cannot be seen in isolation or separated from other aspects of their lives. Where possible, we encourage them to participate in their own intimate or personal care. For our youngest children, we are mindful of the health and self-care Early Learning Goal for children to, "manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently."

At St Michael's C of E Primary School, when providing intimate care, we are guided by the following:

- Concepts of personal care vary between individuals and it should be provided sensitively
- Staff who are designated to carry out this work should be properly trained and receive appropriate guidance and resources
- Personal care will not be provided by volunteers
- Where possible the child should consent
- A child's preference for who should provide care will be taken into account
- Gender, religious and cultural issues will be taken into account
- Care will be provided at the point of need and undue delay will be avoided
- Personal care will always be provided in an appropriate area so that the child is afforded privacy

- We carefully consider the balance between the child's physical requirements and their right to privacy with the potential vulnerability of the staff member attending to their needs. It may be appropriate to have a second member of staff in close proximity, for instance
- The child is encouraged to attend to their own needs wherever possible and if it is safe to do so. It may be possible to provide supervision and guidance, intervening only where necessary or if the child asks person asks for help

Parents and carers are entitled to:

- Jointly plan with the school how their child's needs will be met and have their own culture respected
- Have available to them information as to how their child's needs are being met
- Support in managing their child's individual needs
- Constancy of expectation and approach in school and in the home

If a child is in need of regular intimate care, this will be documented in a care plan written in conjunction with the child, parents, teacher and support staff and the SENCo and external advisors, where appropriate. School will engage with appropriate specialist support where a particular need is identified. Care plans will be reviewed regularly and adjusted when necessary.