

# INKBERROW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love to Learn, Learn to Care

We aspire for all our children to become confident, secure, caring individuals who achieve personal success and develop a love of learning.

## INTIMATE CARE POLICY



**Spring 2024**

**Glenn Duggan Seville**

**Approved by Governors: Delegated Policy to Head Teacher**

**REVIEW Spring 2026**

## **Aims**

At Inkberrow Primary School we aim to meet the needs of all our children and promote their welfare.

We recognise and assist children with intimate care where needed, and ensure that the children are treated with courtesy, dignity, and respect at all times.

Intimate care is defined as care involving washing or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas which some children may need support in doing because of their young age, physical difficulties or other special needs.

If a child has intimate care needs, a designated member of staff would take responsibility to provide their care. This designated person would be given appropriate training as required to meet these care needs.

We address issues on an individual basis.

## **Intimate Care and Toileting in the Early Years**

Due to the developmental stages of the children that we work with, we support them with their personal care: reminding the children to go to the toilet, hygiene etc. to develop their independence as outlined in the Early Years Curriculum.

We are responsible for children's personal care skills, as an essential part of Personal Development, in order to be able to access the rest of the curriculum.

On some occasions, children come to our setting in nappies. We support children sensitively and with dignity in this matter. Also, from time to time some children will have accidents and need to be attended to. Parents are asked to supply a bag of clean clothes for their child in a drawstring bag to be hung on their child's peg. These are taken into the toilet facilities prior to changing. However a supply of named school spare clothing is available if necessary and parents are asked to return this as soon as possible.

If a child has needed help with meeting intimate care needs (had an accident) this is treated as confidential and shared with the parents in person at the end of the day. If the child is collected by someone other than the parent, we will make sure that the information is passed on to an appropriate adult.

## **Implementation**

### Staff training

All staff are knowledgeable about intimate care/personal care. They are aware of their responsibilities, relevant policies and procedures in place (including adhering to Child Protection, Health and Safety, Confidentiality). The designated employed adult is trained, has enhanced DBS clearance and has received training for very specific intimate care procedures where relevant.

They follow the child's care plan and they undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. They are fully aware of best practice including hygiene.

### Intimate care plan

If a child requires regular assistance with intimate care, staff meet with the parents to discuss the child's needs and devise an agreed intimate / personal care plan. Pupils will also be involved. Relevant health personnel are involved if needed. The Intimate Care Plan is reviewed regularly depending upon the development of the pupil or if there have been any changes in therapeutic or medical needs. It will be reviewed at least annually.

## Equipment

Appropriate equipment necessary for the Intimate Care Procedure will be identified and resourced by the LA/School/Health Agencies. It is expected that sufficient personal articles, for example, nappies/pads will be provided by the parents/carers.

## Practice

The designated practitioner who provides the care (in most cases: the child's Teacher or TA) forms a strong, trusting relationship with the child. They ensure that it is a positive experience that is safe and comfortable for all. Whilst the child is having their needs met, it is treated as a time to converse and promote their personal development. It is recommended that one practitioner supports the pupil, with another member of staff nearby however at IPS we always work in pairs when dealing with wet/soiled children.

The child is encouraged to undertake as much of the procedure for themselves as possible, including washing intimate areas, dressing/undressing and hygiene. Every effort is made to ensure privacy and modesty.

If the child is badly soiled and in need of a shower or bath, then parents will be notified and asked to collect from school.

Consideration will be given to the pupil's intimate care needs when planning a school trip or a residential. The school will identify the pupil's needs and requirement and the facilities available. It will also consider what equipment/resources will need to be transferred or transported.

If a child is unhappy or anxious about the care being provided, the issue will be addressed through discussion with parents to ensure that we continually meet a child's needs.

## Working with parents

We work closely with parents to identify and ensure we meet the child's needs. Cultural and religious values are respected when planning for their care. We seek to engage in regular communication with parents, and monitor and review the plan together..Working with outside agencies

We work closely with outside agencies and utilise their knowledge and expertise where necessary. The SENCO, coordinates this approach.

This policy has been written in accordance with Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Disability Discrimination Act (amended 2005) and Disability Rights Commission – Code of Practice for Schools (DD Act 1995 as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001) and Department of Health (2001) Good Practice in Continence Services.