<u>**Wray Common Primary School**</u>
<u>**Intimate Care Policy**</u>

Wray Common Primary School's main concern is to address the needs of all children to help them achieve their full potential, to be fully included in their school community and to experience success. We work in partnership with families and encourage and support the involvement and inclusion of individual children and it is for this reason that we have an Intimate Care Policy. Wray Common School's Intimate Care Policy follows the Surrey County Council guidance.

Introduction

1.1   Staff who work with young children or children 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.

1.2   Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene.

1.3   Children's dignity will be preserved and an appropriate 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 Wray Common work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible.

1.4   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 who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages within the home.

1.5   Wray Common 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. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress.

2.0   Our approach to best practice

2.1   All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

2.2   Staff who provide intimate care are aware of best practice.

2.3   Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental stages.

2.4   There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication to discuss the child's needs and preferences.

2.5   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.

2.6   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. Where possible, one child will be cared for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having two adults present.

2.7   Parents/carers will be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements on a regular basis. The needs and wishes of children and parents/carers will be carefully considered alongside any possible constraints.

3.0   The protection of children

3.1   Child Protection procedures will be accessible, and adhered to, by staff.

3.2   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 designated person for child protection. A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred if necessary.

The guidelines from this policy will be adhered to in cases where a child might have had an isolated 'accident' at school or where there is a need for daily care. In all cases, staff will administer Intimate Care only when parent/carer consent has been given.

Consent for Intimate Care delivered by staff at Wray Common Primary School

I/we give consent for intimate care to be given to our child……………………………. (name) when the need arises.

Signed…………………………………………………………………….

Date……………………………………………………