

Stonehouse Park Infant School



Stonehouse Park
Infant School

The BEST start for every child so every child can be the BEST they can be.

Intimate Care Policy

(This policy should be read in conjunction with Safeguarding , Whistle Blowing, Safer Working, Physical Intervention, Staff Code of Conduct & Staff Grievance policies)

Updated: February 2021

Ratified by Governors: March 2021

Review Date: February 2022

Our Vision Statement

For every child to set out confidently on the adventure of learning: curious about the world, excited about their future, positive of their ability and caring towards other people.

Our Aims:

Curious about the world

- To promote awareness and understanding of other cultures.
- To develop the children's motivation, discovering their special interests and talents.
- To introduce children to a wide range of new experiences, ideas and activities.
- To encourage the children to ask questions about the world, talk about their ideas and express their opinions.

Excited about their future

- To make children excited about learning and eager to move on to the next stage of their learning.
- To help children to look beyond their immediate surroundings and their own personal circumstances.
- To shape a curriculum which will develop the knowledge and skills that children will need to meet the challenges of their future lives.
- To involve children in problem solving and develop their capacity to be active citizens

Positive of their ability

- To help children to reach the highest levels of achievement in all they do.
- To demonstrate to all children that they are able to learn and that they can succeed.
- To provide the highest quality of teaching for all children and to meet every child's individual needs.
- To develop children's awareness of their own learning and the value of resilience, perseverance and dedication.

Caring of other people

- To develop sensitivity to the feelings and concerns of other people.
- To demonstrate compassion, respect for others and develop a moral understanding.
- To learn how to co-operate and work with other people.

Introduction:

1. Staff who work with young children or children who have SEND will realise that the issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require all staff to be respectful of children's needs and ensure that all staff adhere to safe working practices.
2. 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 as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing.
3. 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 Stonehouse Park work in partnership with parents and carers to provide continuity of care to children whenever possible.
4. Staff deliver a developmentally appropriate personal safety curriculum as part of PSHE to all children at their level of understanding. This work is shared with parents who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages at home.
5. Stonehouse park 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 it is essential to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should ever be attended to in a way that causes any distress or pain.

Our Approach to Best Practice:

1. All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.
2. Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including safeguarding, child protection & manual handling & lifting) and are fully aware of best practice. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/occupational therapist as required.
3. Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children. In order to safeguard both adults and children, it is school policy that staff shouldn't provide this care in isolation with the child but alert another member of staff in order to provide support. As a basic principle, children will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence and autonomy that is possible given their age, developmental stage and ability. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for themselves as they can. Individual care plans will be drawn up for children as appropriate to their level of need.
4. 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.
5. Wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult all of the time. Instead there will be a rota of adults known to the child . This will ensure, as far as is possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, while at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers.
6. Parents/ carers will be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements on a regular basis; a clear account of the agreed arrangement 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 & equal opportunities legislation.

7. Each child's class teacher will have oversight of the well-being of the child and ensure that the individual care plan is being followed appropriately. They will check in with the child verbally or through observations to ensure that the child feels comfortable with the care they are receiving.

The Protection of Children:

1. Gloucestershire safeguarding Children Executive procedures will be made known to staff, make accessible and adhered to. All staff will receive child protection training every 3 years and all safeguarding leads every 2 years. All staff will receive an annual child protection update training session. All staff will be expected to read and understand the appropriate sections of Keeping Children safe in Education September 2019 and Working Together to safeguard Children. The school's safeguarding policy will be reviewed and updated annually and shared with all staff, volunteers, students on placement and governors.
2. Where appropriate, children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.
3. 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 these concerns to the DSL or one of the deputy DSLs. The concern will be logged on CPOMs and when necessary/ the concern reaches the level of intervention threshold, a referral will be made to social care. Parents/carers will be informed about the need to make a referral before the referral is made to social care unless doing so is likely to place the child at greater risk of harm.
4. If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be investigated by a senior member of staff. This process will be recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution. Staffing responsibilities/ rotas will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved so that the child's needs remain paramount.
5. If a child and/or parent/carer makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed. Refer to Allegations Management at www.gsce.org.uk.