



Date: July 2024

Review Date: July 2026

Gaddesden Row School

Intimate Care Policy

Our school will provide care and assistance for our pupils whenever possible.

Intimate Care

There are a number of appropriate activities adults in school might perform which could be described as intimate care. These range from:

Supporting a pupil with dressing/undressing

Cleaning children who have soiled themselves

Providing comfort for a distressed child

Assisting a pupil requiring medical care and unable to carry this out unaided.

Physical Contact

Physical prompting is a recognised teaching method in many curriculum areas. (Eg. guiding a pupil in their use of tools such as scissors or saws in Design and Technology) and is necessary in the younger classes (e.g. reassuring a child in Early Years when they are nervous about speaking or guiding young children around the school).

Physical contact should be age appropriate and there are times when young children need comforting or encouraging by physical means. This contact will usually be quite brief. However, a distressed pupil may need comforting for longer. If a degree of privacy is needed, this should never be in a locked or remote area and another member of staff must be made aware of the situation. In touching a child, school staff should always be aware of the possibility of invading the child's privacy and should respect the child's wishes and feelings.

In our school, the placing of a child on a lap is acceptable up until the age of Year 2. Children who need comforting beyond this age group will be placed on a chair next to the staff member. Children who are placed on staff's laps will only be done so where there are other staff members present.

Safety measures

If a child is in need of intimate care, a member of staff will respond to the child's need using the necessary safety measures, such as wearing gloves etc.

Supportive Hugs

Children will be given supportive hugs if they feel distressed at any point or as a way of saying 'well done'. These will be side on and hands will be placed on either shoulder.

Rewards

Stickers will be handed to children in Class 2 or above to place on themselves. Staff in Class 1 will place the sticker on the child's jumper.

Key Principles

Treat every pupil with dignity, respect, sensitivity and ensure privacy appropriate to the pupil's age, culture, gender and needs.

Privacy is an important issue. Sometimes intimate care may need to be carried out by one member of staff alone with a child. This is acceptable unless the task requires two people or there are specific guidelines advising that more than one member of staff is present. Privacy does not equate to secrecy. Staff should be open, informing others of their intentions.

Enable the pupil as far as possible, to be responsible for his/her own intimate care.

Avoid doing things for a pupil that they can do alone. If the child is able to help, ensure they are given the chance to do so. If a child is fully dependent upon adult support, talk to the child about what you are doing and give choices where possible. For example, if they have wet themselves, give them their pants and ask them to take off the wet ones and put on the clean, dry ones. A child should not be washed by a member of staff unless they have an individual care plan.

Signed:

Date:

Headteacher

Signed:

Date:

Chair of Governor's