PERRAN-AR-WORTHAL CP SCHOOL
Every Moment Matters

SAFEGUARDING: INTIMATE CARE POLICY

Introduction

1. Staff who work with young children or vulnerable children and young people who have special needs, will realize that the issue of intimate care is a difficult one and will require staff to be respectful of children's needs (where 'children' are mentioned in this document, the term will also include young people).

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 and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing or bathing.

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 Perran-ar-worthal School work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

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.

5. Perran-ar-worthal School 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 recognize 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 or pain.

Our approach to best practice

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

7. Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Child Protection and Health and Safety training in moving and handling) 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.

8. Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation. Wherever possible, staff who are involved in the intimate care of children/young people will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex

and relationship education to their children/young people as an additional safeguard to both staff and children/young people involved.

9. There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic, etc.) to discuss the child's needs and preferences. The child is aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.

10. 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 children to do as much for themselves as they can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves. Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child and in consultation with parents/carers. These plans include a full risk assessment to address issues such as moving and handling, personal safety of the child and the carer and health.

11. Perran-ar-worthal School recognizes that every child has the right to be accepted for who they are without regard to race, culture and beliefs and will ensure that the values of the parent/carer and child/young person are taken into account when developing an individual intimate care plan

12. 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. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented.

13. Wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis; there will be a rota of carers known to the child who will take turns in providing care. This will ensure, as far as 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.

14. Parents or carers will be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements on a regular basis; a clear account of the agreed arrangements 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 and equal opportunities legislation.

15. As a child approaches puberty or where a medical condition sees the early onset of puberty, the school will ensure that the individual intimate care plan will be reviewed with the parent/carer to take into account the views and needs of the child/young person

16. Each child/young person will have an assigned senior member of staff to act as an advocate to whom they will be able to communicate any issues or concerns that they may have about the quality of care they receive.

17. Where a child has soiled themselves and is clearly in distress, if the parent has not provided additional clothing, a member of staff will use the school's supply of secondhand clothing to provide the child with a clean change of underwear, uniform, etc. and encourage the child where possible to clean themselves using appropriate wipes available in the school. In all cases, to protect both the adult and the child, no

adult must deal with the cleaning of a soiled child without an additional adult present. If the parent cannot be contacted during the course of the school day, then, when collecting their child at the end of the school day, they must be informed of what has occurred and the procedures that were followed. If a child continues to soil themselves on a regular basis, parents will be asked to attend a meeting where an intimate care plan can be drawn up to ensure the child's needs are being met in school and at home.

The protection of children

18. Perran-ar-worthal School's Child Protection Procedures and the South West Child Protection Procedures (https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/) will be accessible to staff and adhered to.

19. Where appropriate, all children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.

20. 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 appropriate manager/ designated person for child protection ~~(Mrs Lea).~~ A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred to social care and/or the police if necessary. Parents will be asked for their consent or informed that a referral is necessary prior to it being made unless doing so is likely to place the child at greater risk of harm. A copy of the school's Child Protection Procedures is available from the school office and on the school website.

21. If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution. Staffing schedules will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved so that the child's needs remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.

22. If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed (see the school's Child Protection Procedures and the South West Child Protection Procedures (https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/).