

Red Gates School Intimate Care Policy

All the children we work with have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect, as set out in the charter for children's rights. Our practice will actively reflect the Statutory Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality, and equality of opportunity and good race relations across all areas of school activity. Promoting race equality is central to the ethos at Red Gates.

These guide-lines are designed to safeguard children, staff and students and apply to every member of staff involved with the intimate care of children. All students are working under the supervision of the class team. Their work is at the discretion of the class teacher.

Everyone aims to support good practice in intimate care.

Children with disabilities can be very vulnerable. All staff involved with their intimate care need to be sensitive to the children's needs and also be aware that some care or tasks or treatments could be open to possible misinterpretation.

False allegations of sexual abuse are extremely rare, but certain basic guide-lines will safeguard both children and staff. Everyone is safer if expectations are clear and approaches are as consistent as far as possible.

If you cannot work within these guide-lines for any reason, please talk with your class teacher, deputy or head teacher.

1. Treat every child with dignity and respect and ensure privacy appropriate to the child's age and situation.

Privacy is an important issue. Much intimate care is carried out by one member of staff alone with one child. This practice is actively supported unless the task requires two people. Having people working alone does increase the opportunity for possible abuse, however this is balanced by the loss of privacy and lack of trust implied if two people have to be present – quite apart from practical difficulties. So staff are supported in carrying out the intimate care of children alone unless the task requires the presence of two people.

2. Involve the child as far as possible in their own intimate care.

Try to avoid doing things for the child that he/she can do alone and if a child is able to help, ensure they are given the chance to do so. Support the child in doing all that they can for themselves. If a child is fully dependent on you, talk with them about what you are doing and give them choices where possible.

3. Be responsive to a child's reactions.

Check your practice by talking to and asking the child where appropriate, particularly a child you have not previously cared for, e.g. 'Is it OK to do it this way?' 'Can you wash there?' If a child expresses dislike of a certain person carrying out their intimate care try and find out why. If a child appears to have a 'grudge' against you for some reason ensure your manager is aware of this.

4. Make sure practice in intimate care is as consistent as possible.

The leadership team all have responsibility for ensuring staff have a consistent approach facilitated by induction, training and guidelines displayed in appropriate places for all staff to see. This does not mean that everyone has to do things in an identical fashion, but it is important that approaches are not markedly different between staff e.g.: Avoid skin contact to wash a child's private parts use disposable wipes and gloves

5. Never do something unless you know how to do it.

If you are not sure how to do something ask. If you need to be shown more than once, ask again.

Certain intimate care or treatment procedures, such as rectal examinations, suppositories or intimate catheterization must only be carried out by nursing or medical staff.

6. If you are concerned, report it.

If, during the intimate care of a child:

- you accidentally hurt them
- the child seems unusually sore or tender in the genital area
- appears to be sexually aroused by your actions
- misunderstands or misinterprets something
- has a very emotional reaction without apparent cause

Report any such incident as soon as possible to a named designated safeguarding lead. Please fill in the correct recording sheet clearly and hand in following the correct safeguarding reporting procedure or incident form procedure.

7. Encourage the child to have a positive image of their own body.

Confident, assertive children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to sexual abuse. As well as basics like privacy, the approach you take to a child's intimate care can convey lots of messages to them about what their body is 'worth'. Your attitude to the child's intimate care is important. Keeping in mind the child's age, routine care must be appropriately carried out, enjoyable, relaxed and fun.

Reviewed with school staff & Premises, Behaviour & Safety Committee October 2016

Head Teacher

Date

Chair of Governors

Date