

# INTIMATE CARE POLICY

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**The Chelsea Nursery (TCN) provides nursery education for children aged 6 months to 4 years. The nursery is linked to Cameron Vale School (CVS).**

## Statement of Intent

The Chairman, Headmistress and all staff at The Chelsea Nursery (TCN) fully recognise the contribution we make to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We recognise that all staff, including volunteers, have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm. All staff believe that both TCN and the wider Cameron Vale School should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment, which promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child. The school recognises the importance of working within the EYFS Framework. The Staff at TCN realise that the issue of intimate care is a difficult one and will require all to be respectful of children's needs.

## Definitions

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 or bathing.

## Procedures

Children's dignity will be preserved, and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. All staff who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of Safeguarding issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at TCN work in partnership with parents and carers to provide continuity of care to children and young people wherever possible. Staff deliver a full personal safety curriculum to all children, as part of our Personal, Social, Health and Emotional curriculum (PSHE), as appropriate to their stage of development and understanding. This work is shared with parents who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages at home. TCN 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. TCN recognises that there is a need to treat all children with respect and dignity when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

## Our Approach to Best Practice

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

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 an assessment from a physiotherapist or occupational therapist as required.

All staff will carefully and sensitively discuss each child's needs and preferences with them, in line with their preferred means of communication (for example verbal and symbolic). The child will be made aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.

As a basic principle, children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. 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 their circumstances and requirements. These plans will include a full risk assessment to address issues such as moving and handling, and the personal safety of the child and the member of staff.

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many staff 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.

Wherever possible the 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 intimate care. This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are not developed. However, the staff will make every effort to ensure that the care is not carried out by a succession of completely different carers.

Parents and 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 for example staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

### **The Protection of Children**

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

Safeguarding and multi-agency procedures will be accessible to staff and strictly adhered to. If a member of staff has any concerns regarding physical changes in a child's presentation, for example marks, bruises and soreness, this will immediately be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred to Social Care and/or the Police, in line RBKC Safeguarding Children's Partnership procedures. These concerns will be discussed with parents and carers prior to a referral, unless doing so is likely to place the child at greater risk of harm.

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 and 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 issues are resolved so that the child's needs remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.

We keep record detailed records of children who need to be changed.

If there is an allegation of abuse, procedures outlined in the Safeguarding Policy will be followed.