



Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust

Intimate Care Policy

INTRODUCTION

The Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for intimate care of children and young people will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times.

This Trust takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care.

The Governing Bodies recognise its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act (2010) which requires that any child with an impairment that affects his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

We recognise that there is a need for children and young people to be treated with respect when intimate care is given.

No child shall be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

Staff will work in close partnership with parents and carers to share information and provide continuity of care.

DEFINITION

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure that most children and young people carry out for themselves, but which some are unable to do. If school has any disabled pupils who require more assistance than then additional documents will be provided, at present there are no disabled children on the school register. We will work in partnership with parents and healthcare professionals (e.g. health visitor, school nurse) to support children in achieving continence. Children with continence difficulties may have a specific target related to this aspect of their development on their individual educational plan.

OUR APPROACH TO BEST PRACTICE

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Child Protection, and Moving and Handling where appropriate) and fully aware of best practice.

An available member of classroom or lunch time staff or in some circumstances, a named person will take responsibility for changing a child. To safeguard them from any allegations of improper conduct the adult will inform another member of staff when changing, and will encourage the child to take responsibility for changing, acting in a supporting role.

- Staff will wear disposable gloves and aprons when handling bodily fluids.
- The child will be encouraged to undress and dress themselves.
- The child will be encouraged to wipe themselves if appropriate.
- Any adult intervention will be fully explained and its purpose made clear to the child.
- Soiled clothing will be double wrapped in plastic bags and given to the parent/carer at the end of the school day.
- Other soiled materials e.g. gloves, newspaper, will be double wrapped in plastic bags and disposed of in the outside bin.
- Both the child and adult will wash and dry their hands afterwards using liquid soap and disposable paper towels.
- Parents/carers will be informed immediately by telephone if the child is unwell. Otherwise, parents/carers will be informed verbally at the end of the school day.

If children have soiled themselves, they will be encouraged to clean themselves, depending on their age and ability. (Please see nappy changing policy for Pre Nursery) They will be provided with wipes, carrier bag to place soiled garments and a change of clothes, depending on the extent of the soiling parents will be notified to collect the child.

If a child is injured they will be treated in line with the Trust First Aid policy. (Please see policy)

Where specialist equipment and facilities above that currently available in the school are required, every effort will be made to provide appropriate facilities in a timely fashion, following assessment by a Physiotherapist and/or Occupational Therapist.

There is careful communication with any pupil who requires intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication to discuss needs and/or Occupational Therapist.

SAFEGUARDING

The Governors and staff of The Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust recognise that disabled children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of abuse.

Child Protection and Multi-Agency Child Protection procedures will be adhered to at all times.

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation (unexplained marks, bruises or soreness for example) s/he will immediately report concerns to the Designated Person for Child Protection.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for a particular member of staff, the matter will be investigated at an appropriate level and outcomes recorded.

Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of the process of reaching a resolution. Further advice will be taken from partner agencies.

If a child makes an allegation about a member of staff, this will be investigated in accordance with agreed procedures.