

# **Tudhoe Moor Nursery School**

## **Intimate Care Policy**



### **1. Policy Statement**

Tudhoe Moor Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We are 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.

No child is excluded from participating in our school who may, for any reason, not yet be toilet trained and who may still be wearing nappies or equivalent. We work with parents towards toilet training, unless there are medical or other developmental reasons why this may not be appropriate at the time. We provide nappy changing facilities and exercise good hygiene practices in order to accommodate children who are not yet toilet trained. We see toilet training as a self-care skill that children have the opportunity to learn with the full support and non-judgemental concern of adults.

Young children will need varying levels of support to deal with their personal needs and this policy acknowledges that appropriate intimate care will be given to ensure their health, development and well-being.

### **2. Intimate Care**

Intimate care may include the;

- changing of nappies
- assistance of children who have wet/soiled their clothes
- administering of first aid
- provision of a specific risk assessment for those children with medical, special educational needs or disabilities
- support of young children with SEND who may need physical prompts or help
- appropriate comfort of a distressed child

We must;

- acknowledge that physical contact can be a sensitive issue for some children
- acknowledge that innocent and well-intentioned physical contact could potentially sometimes be misconstrued

### 3. Procedures

- Only members of staff are allowed to attend to children's Intimate Care needs.
- Key persons are aware of the young children in their care who are in nappies or 'pull-ups' and those children who have occasional accidents.
- Our key persons change nappies according to need.
- All staff share the responsibility of changing children.
- All young children are changed within sight of other staff whilst maintaining their dignity and privacy at all times.
- Wherever appropriate, children are encouraged to manage the removal of their own clothing.
- Our changing area is warm, with a safe area to lay children and no bright lights shining down in their eyes.
- Each child's bag is collected before changing so their nappies, pull ups and changing wipes are to hand.
- Our staff put on gloves and aprons before changing starts and the area is prepared and cleaned. This is repeated freshly for each new child to be changed.
- All our staff are familiar with our hygiene procedures and carry these out when changing nappies
- Our staff never turn their back on a child or leave them unattended whilst they are on the changing mat.
- We are gentle when changing; we avoid pulling faces and making negative comments about 'nappy contents'.
- In addition, we ensure that nappy changing is relaxed and a time to promote independence in young children.
- At all times staff pay attention to the level of distress and comfort of the child. In the event a child is reluctant and finally refuses, the parent/carer will be contacted.
- We encourage children to take an interest in using the toilet.
- We encourage children to wash their hands and have soap and towels to hand. They should be allowed time as they explore the water and the soap.

- Children access the toilet when they have the need to and are encouraged to be independent.
- Children are taught to respect the privacy of themselves and each other when using the toilet area.
- We dispose of nappies and pull ups hygienically. The nappy is bagged and put in the nappy bin. Cloth nappies, trainer pants and ordinary pants that have been wet or soiled are rinsed and bagged for parents to take home.
- Staff record details of changing in individual children's records.
- Cream will be applied if provided by parents. All applications will be logged and applied following the directions on the ointment.
- We have a 'duty of care' towards children's personal needs. If children are left in wet or soiled nappies in the nursery this may constitute neglect and will be a disciplinary matter.
- A distressed child will always be comforted if this is something that they want and are comfortable with: this may involve the use of sensitive, appropriate touch (such as an arm around the child or a hug)
- First aid will be administered in line with the First Aid Policy.

#### 4. Parents

When toilet training children we have high expectations and approach the whole subject in a calm way. Little attention is given to continual wetting or soiling and positive reinforcement is given when the child manages to use the toilet or stay dry. Simple explanations can be given to the child about why it is good to stay clean and dry. These principles can be shared with parents who may want support in this area. Our Toilet Training Champion is also available to offer support and advice to parents. We talk about aspects of toilet training with parents at all stages to keep them fully informed about progress or concerns at school. We convey to parents that learning these skills are just as important as learning other pre-school skills. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible, within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

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| Date of review:      | November 2024 |
| Date of next review: | November 2025 |