
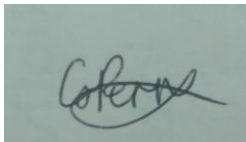


Intimate Contact Guidance Policy for Parsons Down Partnership

Headteacher	Sign & Date: June 2015 Uploaded to web-site June 2015	 DONNA SHAVE
Chair of Governing Board	Sign & Date: June 2015 Uploaded to web-site June 2015	GEORGINA PERRY 

Review schedule (this policy will be reviewed every 3 years)

Date	Description of any changes	Date approved by Governing Board
June 2015	First agreed	June 2015
April 2018	Reviewed	April 2018

Intimate Contact Guidance Policy

Any adult required to carry out intimate support for a child will hold a current safeguarding training certificate and an enhanced DBS clearance.

Aim:

This policy seeks to support children and staff when the needs of an individual pupil require more than the daily pupil-staff contact that is expected in school.

There are occasions where there will be a need for staff to supervise or to have intimate contact with children to satisfy Health and Safety considerations. Children are entitled to respect and privacy at all times and especially when in a state of undress, changing clothes, bathing or undertaking any form of personal care. This contact or supervision should be appropriate to the needs and age of the child concerned and sensitive to the potential for embarrassment.

Considerations:

Adults need to be vigilant about their own behaviour, ensure they follow agreed guidelines and be mindful of the needs of the children with whom they work. In these situations the child is often upset and emotionally distressed and therefore the feelings of the child should be considered a priority.

All children have a right to safety, privacy and dignity when contact of a physical or intimate nature is required and depending on their abilities, age and maturity should be encouraged to act as independently as possible. Adults should not assist with any personal care task which a child can undertake by themselves.

In these circumstances professional guidance, for example, from the School Nurses, should be followed and adults should be aware of what is and what is not acceptable when responding to a child in such a situation:

- never touch a child in a way which may be considered indecent
- record and report situations which may give rise to concern from either party to a member of the SLT. A form for reporting is available as an appendix to this policy
- make other staff aware of the task being undertaken
- explain to the child what is happening
- avoid any physical contact when children are in a state of undress
- avoid any visually intrusive behaviour

In situations where a child has soiled him/herself the child should be encouraged to clean themselves. Staff should assist if the child is unable to clean themselves to a satisfactory level of cleanliness. When assisting the child, staff should wear gloves which are provided along with wipes and nappy bags. Spare clothes are kept in school.

The door should be left slightly ajar so that staff are not in a closed room with the child whilst also respecting the child's personal privacy. Another member of staff should also be present, be aware of the proceedings and be available to provide support if necessary, although should preferably remain outside the room. The shower (PDJ) may be used, with parental consent. Soiled clothing should be bagged and labelled and given to the child to take home.

Care Plan:

Some job responsibilities necessitate intimate physical contact with children on a regular basis, for example assisting children with toileting or in the provision of medical care. The nature, circumstances and context of such contact should comply with professional codes of practice or guidance and/or be part of a formally agreed Individual Health Care Plan, which is regularly reviewed with parents / carers.

The additional vulnerabilities that may arise from a child with SEN,D should be taken into account and recorded as part of an agreed care plan. The emotional responses of any child to intimate care should be carefully and sensitively observed, and where necessary, any concerns passed to senior managers and/or parents/carers. Intimate care may form part of an EHCP.

The views of the child should be actively sought, wherever possible, when drawing up and reviewing formal arrangements. As with all individual arrangements for intimate care needs, agreements between the child, parents/carers and the school must be negotiated and recorded.

Variations:

- consult with senior managers and parents/carers where any variation from agreed procedure/care plan is necessary
- record the justification for any variations to the agreed procedure/care plan and share this information with parents
- ensure that any changes to the agreed care plan are discussed, agreed and recorded.

Reference

'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who Work with Children and Young People'- November 2007

- Allegations Management Advisers

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with:

- The Health & Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Whistle Blowing Policy
- Equality Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical Conditions in School Policy

Guideline reviewed and agreed: April 2018 **Guideline to be reviewed:** April 2021

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Chair of Governors

