



## Intimate Care Policy

### Aims:

We aim to safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of all children attending the setting.

We aim to maintain the privacy and dignity of all children who may need support with intimate or personal care needs.

We believe that all children have a right to feel safe, secure, and valued as individuals.

We aim to provide a professional approach when meeting an individual's intimate or personal care needs.

We aim to support an individual's needs and promote independence.

The policy is written with regard to the Equality Act 2010 and with regard to the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2024.

### Definitions of the Policy:

**Intimate care** can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature associated with bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene that may require contact with or exposure of private parts of the body. For example, changing nappies, incontinence pads, helping someone to use the toilet, washing intimate parts of the body, dressing, undressing (underwear).

**Personal care** can be regarded as less invasive than intimate care and can include support with feeding, administering oral medication, dressing, undressing (clothing), washing non-intimate parts of the body, prompting to go to the toilet.

### Procedures:

All staff who are required to perform intimate or personal care tasks are enhanced DBS checked.

Staff who undertake intimate or personal care tasks are appropriately trained in good working practices to comply with Health and Safety regulations, wearing protective clothing, dealing with bodily fluids, manual handling, and child protection.

All staff must sign a record of any intervention required including the date, time, and details.

If a staff member is concerned about a child's actions or comments whilst carrying out a personal care task, this should be recorded and discussed with the manager or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

All staff are required to attend to the safety and comfort of all the children attending the setting and delayed continence is not discriminated against. No child is excluded from the nursery's activities solely because of their continence.

No child will be sent home to be changed or be required to wait for a parent or carer to attend to them at the nursery.

We recognise that we have a responsibility to teach toilet training and other aspects of personal care, e.g., hand washing skills.

We establish effective communication with parents about their child's individual care needs prior to the child attending the setting, and parents are encouraged to work with the staff to ensure that their child's particular needs are met.

Records of any intimate or personal care tasks are maintained by all staff undertaking those duties and parents are kept informed.

Religious and cultural values are always taken into account when planning arrangements for managing intimate or personal care.

When a routine care task is required on a regular basis a relevant care plan will be established involving discussion between, parents, carers, staff and any other health personnel or external agencies. The plan should be agreed and signed by all parties and reviewed on a regular basis. Staff will be supported to attend any training necessary to support them in implementing intimate care e.g., tube feeding, changing catheters etc.

Any complaints or concerns will be managed in line with the settings complaints policy.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the settings Nappy Changing Policy.

Signed: Ruth Claydon      Date: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023      Review date: October 2024