

# Enniskillen Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit



## Intimate Care Policy

**Ratified by Board of Governors:**  
As per statement on Website

**This Intimate Care Policy has been developed to safeguard our children and our staff. It applies to everyone involved in intimate care of children.**

### **Definition**

Intimate care may be defined as any activity required to meet the personal care needs of each individual child (in partnership with the parents/carers and the child)

Intimate care can include:

- Feeding
- Oral care
- Washing
- Dressing/Undressing
- Toileting
- Menstrual Care
- Photographs
- Treatments such as enemas or suppositories
- Catheter and stoma care
- Supervision of a child involved in intimate self care

Parents/carers have the responsibility to advise staff of the intimate care needs of their child.

### **Principles of Intimate Care**

It is our duty to ensure that all children are treated with the care which any parent would give were they at home.

The following are the fundamental principles of Intimate Care upon which the Policy is based.

- Every child has the right to be safe.
- Every child has the right to personal safety.
- Every child has the right to be valued as an individual.
- Every child has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Every child has the right to be involved and consulted in their own intimate care to the best of their abilities.
- Every child has the right to express their views on their own intimate care and to have such views taken into account.
- Every child has the right to have levels of intimate care that are as consistent as possible.

### **Guidelines for Good Practice**

As staff are in the role of 'loco parentis' it is accepted that they will carry out the necessary changing routine as a parent would, provided that the parent has completed the Parental Consent Form.

In situations where the consent form has not been completed the school will contact the parent to explain the circumstances of the situation. A record of intimate care will be kept in classroom file.

Continual accidents should be discussed with SENCO and Principal and school nurse may be contacted.

A lot of care is carried out by one staff member/carer alone with one child. The practise of providing one-one intimate care of one child is supported, unless the intimate care requires two persons for the greater comfort/safety of the child or the child prefers two persons.

As a child can have multiple carers a consistent approach to the care is essential. Effective communication between parents/carers/school ensures practise is consistent.

Confident, self assured children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to sexual abuse. The approach we take to intimate care can convey lots of messages to a child about their body worth. Our attitude to a child's intimate care is important. Keeping in mind the child's age, routine care can be relaxed, enjoyable and fun.

If staff observe any unusual markings, discolorations or swelling including the genital area, they must report immediately to the designated Principal.

If during the intimate care of a child the staff member accidentally hurts them or the child misunderstands or misinterprets something, the child will be reassured and this incident will be reported immediately to the designated Principal.

We will report and record any unusual emotional or behavioural response by the child.  
A written record of concerns must be made and kept in the child's personal file  
Parents/carers must be informed about concerns.



- ❖ From time to time, children will have toileting accidents.
- ❖ It is our policy to deal with these incidents immediately in order to make your child comfortable and save embarrassment.
- ❖ We need your consent; however, to change your child should an accident occur.
- ❖ Please complete and return this form to the school.

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Name of

Pupil \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

**I give my consent for a member of employed staff to change my child if he/she has a toileting accident in school.**

Signed

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

