

Dundela Infants' School & Nursery Unit



Intimate Care Policy

Reviewed September 2022

Introduction

Every child in Dundela Infants' School & Nursery Unit has the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect. The Intimate Care Policy and guidelines regarding children have been developed to safeguard children and staff. They apply to everyone involved in the intimate care of children.

Disabled children can be especially vulnerable. Staff involved with their intimate care need to be sensitive to their individual needs.

Definition

“Intimate care may be defined as any activity required to meet the personal care needs of each individual child. Parents have a responsibility to advise staff of the intimate care needs of their child, and staff have a responsibility to work in partnership with children and parents”. (Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines Regarding Children: Area Child Protection Committees, 2005).

Intimate care can include:

- Feeding
- Oral care
- Washing
- Dressing/undressing
- Toileting
- Supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care

Principles of Intimate Care

The following are the principles upon which our policy is based:

- Every child has the right to be safe.
- Every child has the right to personal privacy.
- 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

- Treat every child with dignity and respect and ensure privacy appropriate to the child's age and situation
- Make sure practice in intimate care is consistent
- Involve children in their intimate care
- Promote positive self-esteem and body image
- Children should be encouraged to be as independent as possible

Procedures for Intimate Care - Primary 1 -3

From time to time young children may vomit, soil or wet themselves during school. Our procedure for dealing with such incidences is: -

- Parents are asked at the onset of each academic year to give signed permission for school personnel to offer intimate care should the need arise (a teacher/classroom assistant).
- If possible 2 members of staff will be present when a child requires such assistance. If it is not possible to have 2 members of staff, another member of staff should be informed that the member of staff is assisting a child with intimate care.
- Staff are required to wear PPE when attending to intimate care needs.
- Spare clothing is kept in school for such incidences to ensure the child's dignity is maintained.
- Intimate care is given with respect and consideration, ensuring the child is not further embarrassed.
- Children will be actively encouraged to change and clean themselves with discreet supervision from the staff member.
- The person collecting the child from school will be informed of the incident in a discreet manner.
- The parent will be asked to collect the child from school if the child is unwell.

NB If a child has vomited or has diarrhoea

- The staff will contact the child's parent or guardian, and ask them to collect the child as soon as possible.
- The staff will follow the Public Health Guidelines and will remind the parent or guardian that the child can return to school after being free of symptoms for 48 hours to avoid the spread of infection.

Intimate Care for Children with Additional Needs.

- Dundela Infants' School and Nursery Unit is an inclusive school and welcomes children with a wide range of needs.
- If a child has a Statement of Educational Needs, the staff will determine the most suitable approach to intimate care on an individual basis.
- When a pupil has identified intimate care needs, this will be discussed with the child's parents and health care professionals prior to beginning of the school year and an appropriate Intimate Care Plan will be drawn up in consultation/agreement with the parents.

If a member of staff has concerns about a colleague's intimate care practice they must report this to the Designated teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection, Ms Wilson, in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

This policy will be reviewed and monitored in line with the school's policy review schedule.