



Our Intimate Care Policy

UNCRC : - All children have the:

-Right to have his/her welfare considered paramount in all decisions taken about him/her Article 3:

-Right to be heard Article 12:

-Right to be protected from abuse and neglect Article 19:

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
- Supervision of a child involved in intimate self care.
- Menstrual Care
- Treatments such as enemas or suppositories
- Catheter and stoma care

We assume all our children can conduct required intimate care themselves. Parents/carers have the responsibility to advise staff of the intimate care needs of their child as soon as possible and ideally before the child joins our community.

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 our 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:

Our staff are in the role of *loco parentis*; therefore, it is accepted that they will carry out the necessary changing routine as a parent would. Incontinence or continual accidents should be discussed with the child's teacher as soon as possible.

For children with medical needs, a lot of regular daily intimate care is carried out by one staff member/carer alone with the child. A second adult will always be close by to support both the child and adult involved in the process. As a child with additional needs could have multiple carers, a consistent approach to the care is essential. Effective communication between child/parents/carers/school ensures routines are consistent.

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

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

Changing Consent - Unless otherwise withdrawn by parent:

From time to time, all our children, even when toilet trained, will have toileting accidents. It is our policy to deal with these incidents immediately to make your child comfortable and save embarrassment. We assume all our children can conduct intimate care themselves and can manage an accident with limited adult support delivered at a comfortable distance, eg. outside of the toilet.

If your child is not able to perform intimate care independently then we need your consent to do so. In Whiteabbey Primary School we assume this consent for the reasons outlined above; however, any parent can withdraw this consent at any time by writing to our Principal. Parents will then be contacted, in the event of intimate care being required, so that further arrangements can be made.