



St. Louis Community School, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo

Intimate Care Policy

Rationale:

The policy was devised to document agreed intimate care procedures to ensure appropriate safeguards were in place to protect the welfare and dignity of children who require intimate care at school or during school activities. The aim of the policy is to increase knowledge, enhance skills and promote good practice in this sensitive area. All staff will be made aware of the standards expected of them. Intimate care will be carried out only by regular school employees.

Definition:

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene which demand direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of the genitals. Examples include care associated with continence as well as more ordinary tasks such as helping with washing or bathing.

Indirect contact involves the supervision, observation and prompting of the student to complete personal and intimate care tasks.

Intimate care includes: dressing and undressing (underwear), support with using the toilet, changing of continence pads, washing intimate body parts, showering (if required) and menstrual care.

Principles of Intimate Care

The following are the fundamental principles upon which these Guidelines on Intimate Care are 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 have levels of intimate care that are as consistent as possible

- 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 those views taken into account
- All members of staff have the right to be protected and have their needs also met in the provision of intimate care to pupils for whom they care.

Practices and Procedures

In all situations where a student needs assistance with toileting/intimate care, a meeting will be convened after enrolment and before the child starts school, with a view to drawing up an Intimate Care Plan. Parents, Guardians, Principal, SENCO, SNA and if appropriate, the pupil, will attend.

Plans for the provision of intimate care will be clearly recorded to ensure clarity of expectations, roles and responsibilities.

Two members of staff will be present when intimate care is being provided.

The staff to be involved in this care will be identified.

Additional items of clothing and sanitary wear will be provided by parents/guardians as necessary.

The student's intimate care plan will be reviewed at the beginning of each academic year or as needs arise during the year e.g. where there is a change in the student's mobility.

In order to promote independence, the student will be facilitated in performing as much of his/her own intimate care needs as he/she is physically able to do.

Parents/Guardians are responsible for keeping the school up to date with any changes to the student's intimate care requirements.

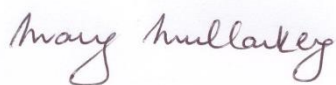
A record of intimate care tasks undertaken should be maintained.

Appropriate protective gear will be provided (e.g. gloves, aprons etc.).

No member of staff will carry a mobile phone, camera or similar device whilst providing intimate care.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 21st September 2023

Signed:



(Chairperson)

Date : 21.9.2023