

Ballymacrickett Primary School and Nursery Unit



Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy for Intimate Care

Revised February 2024

1.0 Definition

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

Intimate Care can include:

Dressing/Undressing

Toileting/Supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care.

2.0 Principles of Intimate Care

The following are the fundamental 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.

3.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- All staff working with children must be vetted through Access NI Checks.
- Only permanent staff should undertake the intimate care of children.
- All staff must be aware of and understand the Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines within the context of their work.
- Intimate Care arrangements must be agreed by the school, parents/carers and the child (if appropriate).
- Parents/carers have a responsibility to advise staff of the intimate care needs of their child. These care arrangements must be agreed, recorded and signed by the teacher/parents/carers/ and child (if appropriate).
- The practice of providing one to one intimate care is supported. However, it is recommended that two adults should be present if possible.
- Any intimate care needs e.g. washing/changing a child should be recorded by the teacher.
- There are four toilets situated off the playroom in the Nursery Unit and a disabled toilet in the cloakroom area. There are boys' and girls' toilets in the cloakroom of each classroom and two disabled toilets on the main corridor of the Primary School. Children are encouraged to be independent and during their settling in period they will be shown the toilets and talked through the process of how to attend to themselves.
- Arrangements will be in place to cover exceptional circumstances i.e. staff member on sick leave. Additional trained staff will be available to undertake specific intimate care tasks.

- Any unusual markings/dicolourations observed during intimate care, will be reported immediately to the designated teacher.
- All children have the right to dignity and privacy. If the child appears distressed or uncomfortable when personal tasks are being carried out, reassurance should be provided and parent/carer should be contacted.

Current Intimate Care Practice

- If a child wets/soils him/herself the classroom assistant (CA), or teacher if CA is not available, brings the child to the toilet and asks the child to remove their clothes themselves, and is provided with wet-wipes if needed.
- The CA / teacher gives the child clean clothes to put on – and assistance is given if required.
- The CA/teacher speaks gently to reassure the child and to minimise any distress.
- The CA/teacher puts the wet/soiled clothes in a bag to be sent home and a parent/carer is informed.
- If a child has a repeated soiled incident on the same day, parents should be contacted to come to the school to bring the child home for cleaning and changing.
- In the case of any child not wishing a member of staff to assist them, a parent/carer will be contacted and informed of the situation
- Parents of Nursery children are encouraged to send in a change of clothing at the start of the year for their child. A supply of spare clothes is kept in the P1 and P2 area. Disposable gloves, baby wipes, plastic bags etc. are kept in a central place in both Nursery and Foundation Stage areas.

Appendix 1