

St Patrick's Primary School Hilltown



Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines Regarding Children

November 2024

Progress Through Partnership

VISION STATEMENT AND SCHOOL AIMS

Vision statement

St Patrick's Primary School is a catholic school where staff, governors and parents are committed to progressing in partnership to provide the right for each child to become the best they can be in a caring inclusive respectful community.

Our values are based on

Faith fairness friendship compassion courage
hope inclusion kindness learning growth
respect pride partnership teamwork trust

Our Mission Statement

St Patrick's Primary School is a welcoming Catholic community centred on Christ, where His Values and Gospel message is lived out through life in our school, in our thoughts, words and deeds.

We are committed to working in partnership, with the home and parish, in developing each child's personality, talents and abilities to the highest standards, in a mutually supportive and caring environment.

We will nurture our pupils' self-worth, and promote a spirit of respect, inclusion and tolerance towards others, with recognition of the value of other people, regardless of gender, ability, social or cultural background.

We expect all in our community to work hard to achieve our aims.

We show our commitment to working as a learning school through:

- Continuing professional development of all staff.
- Reflective practice in learning and teaching.
- Listening to the pupil voice.
- Promoting and sharing of good practice.

St Patrick's Primary School aims

1. To promote a caring, inclusive environment, where our Catholic ideals, values, and beliefs form the foundation of our whole school community through home, school and parish.
2. To cultivate in children, respect for themselves and others, where they have a healthy tolerance for all beliefs and respect for property and environment.
3. To help each child grow and develop spiritually, morally, intellectually, culturally, emotionally and physically so they become caring and responsible citizens of the future.
4. To develop a positive growth mind-set towards life and a love of learning.
5. To give the opportunity to achieve the highest standard of skill and knowledge in all curricular activities, enabling our children to become articulate, literate and numerate with early intervention in place as required.
6. To develop enquiring, imaginative and creative minds with the ability to question, and reason rationally, enabling them to become highly motivated, independent and confident life-long learners, in an ever-changing society.
7. To develop the pupils' skills of understanding our world through scientific, historical, geographical and religious inquiry, fostering an awareness of their responsibilities to care for their local and wider environment.
8. To ensure our children become independent and confident learners through innovative teaching in a stimulating and well-resourced learning environment.
9. To strengthen our partnership where Staff, School Governors, Parents/Guardians, and community work with each other for the successful achievement of these aims.
10. To endorse the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child and work towards the implementation of policies and practices which reflect the Convention.

INTRODUCTION

St Patrick's Primary School's "Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines Regarding Children" have been developed to safeguard children and staff in our school. They apply to everyone involved in the intimate care of children. This policy is complemented and supported by a suite of other school policies including the: Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; Code of Conduct for Staff; Care and Welfare Policy; Health and Safety Policy; Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy; Period Dignity Policy and Reasonable Force/Safe Handling Policy.

DEFINITION

Intimate care may be defined as any activity which is required to meet the personal care needs of an 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, parents and other relevant professionals.

Intimate care can include:

- Oral care;
- Washing;
- Dressing/undressing;
- Toileting;
- Menstrual Care;
- Supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care.

PRINCIPLES OF INTIMATE CARE

The following are the fundamental principles upon which our policy and procedures 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 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 and as appropriate as possible.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Principal together with the Board of Governors will ensure that all staff undertaking the intimate care of children are familiar with, and understand St Patrick's Primary School's Intimate Care Policy and procedures together with associated policies and procedures. When a child has a specific intimate care need, the care arrangements will be agreed by the school, parents/carers, professionals and child (if appropriate). Staff should not undertake any aspect of intimate care that has not been agreed.

All staff working with children must be vetted by the appropriate agency and must provide an Access NI check.

GUIDELINES FOR GOOD PRACTICE

- All children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect. These guidelines are designed to safeguard children and staff. They apply to every member of staff involved with the intimate care of children. It is important to bear in mind that some care tasks / treatments can be open to misinterpretation. Adhering to these guidelines of good practice should safeguard children and staff.
- It is the policy of St Patrick's Primary School to involve the child in their intimate care and to try to promote the child's independence as far as possible in relation to his/her intimate care.
- Where a child has "wet" him/herself, he/she will be accompanied to the toilet by two staff members. The child will be afforded the opportunity to change privately, into the underwear provided. Underwear is available from the class teacher/general store and does not need to be returned. The child's parents/ carers will be informed privately.
- Where the child requires more intimate care (e.g soils himself/herself), the parent/carer will be contacted immediately and asked to come to school to assist the child or to take him/ her home. The child will be reassured while awaiting the arrival of his/her parent/carer. The parent will be reassured that the child will be well cared for while awaiting the arrival of the parent/carer.
- We will treat every child with dignity and respect and at all times will ensure privacy appropriate to the child's age and situation. We will try to involve the child in his/her own intimate care and will try to promote the child's independence as far as possible, in relation to his/her intimate care. We will endeavour to ensure that our practice in intimate care is consistent and respects the dignity of each child. A record of the intimate care given will be recorded and parents/ carers will be notified.
- We require parental permission for the above procedures. Where this is not given, the parent/carer will be given the option to come into school, to undertake the intimate care of the child himself/herself or to take the child home to get changed and where practical to return the child to school. The Parent/ Carer Permission Form is included in Appendix A.

PROMOTE POSITIVE SELF-ESTEEM AND BODY IMAGE

Confident, self-assured children who feel that their bodies are special and belong to them are less vulnerable to abuse. The approach we take to intimate care will convey lots of messages to a child about how special they are. Our attitude to a child's intimate care is important and we will always respect each child's dignity.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

If any member of staff has any concerns regarding the welfare of any child, they will report their concerns immediately to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection or to any member of the Safeguarding Team in the school. A written record of all concerns will be made, in accordance with the school's Safeguarding/ Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEWING

This policy has been drawn up following consultation with pupils, parents, staff and Governors. The school will monitor, evaluate, review and update this policy every three years or sooner if required, in consultation with pupils, staff, parents and Governors.

Signed: Mr E Byrne (Chairperson of the Board of Governors)

Signed: Mrs G Smith (Principal)

Date: November 2024

Review Date: November 2027