

Bunscoil an Iúir

Ní neart go cur le chéile.



Polasaí Cúram Caidreamhach

Intimate Care Policy

Reviewed: November/December 2016

Ratified: 22/02/17

Introduction

This document outlines the approach to Intimate Care in Bunscoil an Iúir. The Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines Regarding Children have been developed to safeguard children and staff. This policy is complemented and supported by a range of other school policies including:

- ✓ Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- ✓ Best Practice/ Code of Conduct for Staff
- ✓ Pastoral Care Policy
- ✓ Health and Safety Policy
- ✓ Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy
- ✓ Use of Safe Handling Policy

Definition

In Bunscoil an Iúir, we agree that 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 child)

Intimate Care can include:

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

Principles of Intimate Care

The following are the fundamental principles upon which the 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 view on their own intimate care and

- Every child has the right to levels of intimate care as consistent as possible.

School Responsibilities

The Principal will ensure that all staff undertaking the intimate care of children are familiar with, and understand the Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines together with associated Policies and Procedures.

When a child has a specific ongoing intimate care need, the care arrangements will be agreed by the school, parents/carers, professionals and child (if appropriate). If necessary, an individual Care Plan to address the intimate care needs of the child will be agreed.

Staff should not undertake any aspect of intimate care that has not been agreed.

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. It is important to bear in mind that some tasks/treatments can be open to misinterpretation. Adhering to these guidelines of good practice should safeguard children and staff.

Involving the child in their intimate care

Parents/ carers have a responsibility to advise staff of the intimate care needs of their child and will be asked to sign a permission slip for a staff member to assist in the intimate care of their child should an incident occur. Parents who do not wish staff to assist their child will be given the option of coming into school to address the issue or taking the child home when necessary.

In Bunscoil an Iuir we will try to encourage a child's independence as far as possible in his/her intimate care. Where the child is fully dependent we will talk with them about what is going to be done and give them choice where possible to help develop their own independence in this area. When an accident occurs resulting in a child wetting or soiling, staff will provide facilities for the child to change themselves (wipes and underwear) and parents will be notified. In the event of a child being unable to change him or herself, parents will be contacted immediately and, if unable to attend, consent will be sought for staff to *assist* the child.

We will treat every child with dignity and respect and ensure privacy appropriate to the child's age and situation. We will endeavor to ensure that our practice in intimate care is consistent.

Be aware of our own limitations

We, as a staff will carry out care activities that we understand and feel competent and confident to carry out. In the event of a child having soiled itself, parents/ carers will be contacted first and asked to come to school to assist their child. If a parent is non contactable than a staff member will be allowed to supervise and carry out the care needed. A record of the care given will be recorded and held in the child's file and the parent/carer informed.

Promote positive self-esteem and body image

Confident, self-assured children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to abuse. The approach we take to intimate care can convey lots of messages to a child about their body worth. Our attitude to a child's intimate care is important. Keeping in mind the child's age, routine care can be relaxed, enjoyable and fun.

If any staff member has any concerns he/she must report them immediately

If any staff member has any concerns they will report immediately to any member of the Safeguarding Team in the school. A written record of concerns will be made.

Procedures

In the event of an intimate care incident

- the school will contact parents to inform them of the incident
- parents will have the choice of administering to their child or allowing staff to do so.

In the event that the school cannot get in contact with parents

- staff will aid the child in their intimate care.
- staff will adhere to Child Protection guidelines - inform another adult, visual access, will not embarrass child
- staff will record the incident

Staff will not do anything for children that they can do for themselves.

Two members of staff will be present at all times.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will monitor, evaluate and review this policy on an annual basis or as the need arises.

Signed

----- (Principal)

----- (Chairperson of Board of Governors)

----- (Date)

