

St Patrick's RC High School



INTIMATE CARE POLICY

Date Adopted by Full Governing Board:

Date of Review: Autumn 2022 - 2023

Next review: Autumn 2023 - 2024

Prepared By: Mr L Barrie

Delegated Committee: Pupil Welfare

Not statutory

Signed: (Headteacher)

INTIMATE CARE POLICY

School Mission Statement

Our outstanding school community is guided by the gospel values of; love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, integrity, humility and truth. Faith and worship are lived, taught and celebrated. We recognise the importance of service to others and the opportunity to be witnesses to Christ in our community.

All are unique and strive for personal growth. We celebrate the pursuit of academic excellence, applaud ambition and value the achievements of all. Our pupils are expected to achieve their best and use their learning to make a difference in the world they live in.

School British Values Statement

St Patrick's teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour. Teachers do this by not undermining fundamental British values and ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.

This policy is in line with the Mission and values of St Patrick's R.C. High School. A successful behaviour policy requires the commitment and **consistency of practice of all staff** to ensure that learners know the standards expected of them. **All members of the school** are expected to help maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, with courtesy and mutual respect as basic requirements.

Introduction

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up a pupil after they have soiled themselves) to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve cleaning for hygiene purposes as part of a staff member's duty of care. In the case of a specific procedure only a person suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure, (e.g. the administration of rectal diazepam). This type of procedure should also be accompanied by a medical plan.

The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful of the child's needs. The child's dignity should always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control. There shall be a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour may be open to scrutiny and staff must work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

St Patrick's RC High is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Our Approach to Best Practice

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires intimate care is treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Child Protection and Health and Safety training as needed for specific pupils with statements/disabilities) and are fully aware of best practice. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/ occupational therapist as required.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation. Wherever possible, staff who are involved in the intimate care of children/young people will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex education to the children/young people in their care as an additional safeguard to both staff and children/young people involved.

The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for him/herself as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves. Individual Intimate Care Plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child these actions will be highlighted on the child's Health Care Plan

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. When a child is in need of intimate care, two adults should be present. One to carry out the necessary care and one to support and safeguard the adult and child. The carers will generally be the same people who are involved with the care and have had the suitable training but there should be several people who are capable of supporting the child and are aware of their needs.

Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the child's Health Care plan the needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

The Protection of Children

St Patrick's Child Protection Procedures will be adhered to. All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding. If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the appropriate manager/designated person for child protection.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed (see Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for details).

Changing Facilities

Children who have long-term incontinence will require specially adapted facilities. The dignity and privacy of the child should be of paramount concern. Consideration is given to the sighting of this area from a health and safety aspect. Using the disabled toilets on the ground floor where a changing table is available ensures that the pupil feels no discomfort

Toileting

If a child has soiled themselves, it is essential staff protect the child (and themselves) by:

1. Two adults are involved in the process plan one to clean and the other to stand by the door to manage privacy);
2. Depending on the age of the child – the child should have autonomy at all times;
3. The situation must be dealt with in a toilet.

In the case of supporting a child who requires regular toileting, information regards this will be highlighted on the pupils individual Health Care Plan

Health and Safety

Staff should wear a plastic apron and gloves when dealing with a child who is bleeding or soiled or when changing a soiled nappy. Any soiled waste should be placed in a polythene waste disposal bag, which can be sealed. This bag should then be placed in a bin (complete with liner) which is specifically designated for the disposal of such waste. Staff should be made aware of the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Children with special needs have the same rights to safety and privacy when receiving intimate care. Additional vulnerabilities that may arise from a physical disability or learning difficulty must be considered with regard to individual teaching and IEPs for each child. As with all arrangements for intimate care needs, agreements between the child, those with parental responsibility and the school should be easily understood and recorded.