

St. John the Baptist Primary School

Bunscoil Eoin Baiste



Intimate Care Policy

Mission Statement

It is our Mission at St. John the Baptist Primary School to serve our community and enhance its social and educational well-being through the provision of a warm, caring, secure and effective Catholic school. We believe this will enable our children to maximise their individual potential for academic, spiritual, personal and social development and help prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Our School Aims

Our aim is to provide an educational experience within a caring community in accordance with our Catholic Faith.

Specifically, we aim:

- ④ To provide a broad and balanced curriculum which fulfils the requirements of the Northern Ireland Education Order.
- ④ To develop each individual child spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically, so that by realising his/her potential he/she can have an appreciation of his/her self-worth.
- ④ To promote and maintain the Catholic ethos of the school whilst developing respect and tolerance for other creeds.
- ④ To establish and maintain acceptable forms of behaviour within a secure and well-ordered school environment by encouraging self-discipline and mutual respect for all members of the school community.
- ④ To foster a positive attitude and help develop a challenging, resourceful and independent approach to learning.
- ④ To promote a positive sense of self-worth and self-esteem in each pupil and teacher.
- ④ To encourage our parents to play a supportive role in the life of the school.
- ④ To teach children to be aware of and to take care of their environment.
- ④ To develop in our pupils, skills, attitudes and values necessary for adult life.

Introduction

Staff in St. John the Baptist Primary School aim to safeguard the welfare of each child in our care. This document sets out our school's policy and practice in relation to the intimate care of pupils and the promotion of an environment where pupils and staff feel valued, safe and secure.

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 may include:

- ④ Feeding
- ④ Oral care
- ④ Washing
- ④ Dressing/undressing
- ④ Toileting
- ④ Supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care
- ④ Menstrual care

Principles of Intimate Care

The following points are the fundamental principles upon which our policy is based:

- ④ Every child has the right to be safe
- ④ Every child has the right to personal privacy
- ④ Every child has the right to be valued as an individual
- ④ Every child has the right to be treated with dignity and respect
- ④ Every child has the right to be involved and consulted in their own intimate care to the best of his/her ability
- ④ Every child has the right to express their views on their own intimate care and to have such views taken into account
- ④ Every child has the right to have levels of intimate care that are as consistent as possible

Roles and Responsibilities

- ④ All staff working with children are sensitive to each individual's needs.
- ④ All staff working with children must be vetted through Access NI Checks.
- ④ Only nominated staff should undertake the intimate care of a child/children.
- ④ All staff must be aware of and understand the Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines within the context of their work.
- ④ Intimate Care arrangements must be agreed by the school, parents/carers and the child (if appropriate).
- ④ Intimate Care arrangements must be recorded and consent forms signed by the parent/carers and child (if appropriate).
- ④ Parents/Carers have a responsibility to advise staff of the intimate care needs of their child.
- ④ Staff should not undertake any aspect of intimate care that has not been agreed by the school, parents/carers and child (if appropriate).
- ④ The practice of providing one to one intimate care is supported. However, it is recommended that two adults should be present if possible.
- ④ Any intimate care needs e.g. washing/changing a child should be recorded by the teacher/classroom assistant.
- ④ Arrangements should be in place to cover exceptional circumstances i.e. staff member on sick leave. Additional staff should be available to undertake specific intimate care tasks.
- ④ Any unusual makings/dicolourations observed during intimate care should be reported immediately to the designated teachers.
- ④ All children have the right to dignity and privacy. If the child appears distressed or

uncomfortable when personal tasks are being carried out, provide assurance and contact the parents/carer.

- ④ If a staff member has concerns about a colleague's intimate care practice they must report this to the designated teacher.

Current Intimate Care practice

- ④ If a child needs intimate care e.g. wets 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 the wet clothes him/herself. In Foundation Stage two adults will always be present if possible.
- ④ The CA/teacher gives the child dry clothes to put on and assistance is given if required.
- ④ The CA/teacher reassures the child to minimise any distress.
- ④ The CA/teacher puts the wet clothes in a bag to be sent home.
- ④ If a child has soiled clothes, depending on the situation, the CA/teacher will provide wipes and dry clothes and assist the child if necessary. Should the situation require more intimate care the parents will be contacted to bring the child home to get washed and changed.
- ④ Parents will be informed in person or by phone call if a child is changed and a record kept.



Parental Permission for Intimate Care

Please read and complete the information below.

Should it be necessary, I give permission for my child/children to receive intimate care (e.g. help with changing or following toileting).

I understand that staff will endeavour to encourage my child to be independent.

I understand that I will be informed discretely should the occasion arise.

*Please insert child's/children's name/s below:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

