

# Polasaí ar Chúram Pearsanta Intimate Care Policy

## Gaelscoil Uí Néill



*fonn a dhéanann foghlaim*

## INTIMATE CARE POLICY

### PRINCIPLES

The UN convention of the Rights of the Child (1991) states:

"Children have the right to be as healthy as possible, live and play in a safe, healthy, unpolluted environment and benefit from preventive health care and education."

### AIM

In Gaelscoil Uí Néill (incorporating Naíscóil Uí Néill, An Naíscóil Bheag and Iarscoil Uí Néill) we aim to work in partnership with parents to ensure that a child can look after his/her own personal needs. This will also include Health and Safety, and Child Protection issues.

In line with our Admissions Policy it is a pre requisite that children are toilet trained and can manage personal care independently. We recognise that there may be exceptions to this where specific medical or educational needs are identified. Each case will be discussed and any specific intimate care procedures agreed with parents and other professionals when appropriate, before the child starts.

Intimate care may be defined as any activity required to meet the personal care needs of each 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 and parents.

Intimate care can include:

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

### PROCEDURES

The most common reasons for needing to use intimate care are when a child;

- Becomes wet following water play
- Has soiled clothes due to vomiting
- has a toileting accident (wetting or soiling)

In any situation requiring intimate care a child will be given a change of clothes and encouraged to change himself/herself in a toilet cubicle. A member of staff will stand at the entrance door of the toilets to reassure him/her. Where a parent has requested or in situations requiring further attention they will be contacted and asked to collect the child. In the event of a delay actions will be taken to assist the child. Soiled clothes will be put in a plastic bag for the parent. A record will be made in the Accident Book.

If a child is unable to change independently or a younger child is distressed for example and needs assistance a member of Naíscoil staff will help the child to change while talking him/her through the process. This will take place in the open area of the toilets while another member of staff will stand at the entrance door.

All actions taken to assist the child will be in a manner that places their welfare as the paramount consideration. Actions will be agreed with the Designated Teacher / Principal the incident recorded and parents informed.

A child will never be left wet / soiled for an excessive period. This will include when a parent cannot be contacted or when they are unable to attend the school within a reasonable timeframe.

**N.B THIS WILL ONLY HAPPEN WHEN ASSESSED AS NECESSARY**

In the event of persistent toileting issues, a Personal Care Plan can be drawn up to assist the child.

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I have read the Intimate Care policy and agree to the procedures outlined.

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

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