

Carrick Primary School



Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines Regarding Children

September 2023

VISION STATEMENT, MISSION STATEMENT AND SCHOOL AIMS

Vision Statement

Forward Together: Ar Aghaidh le Chéile.

Mission Statement

In Carrick Primary School we aim to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment, in which to realise and celebrate the academic and non-academic potential of all our pupils. We expect our pupils to work hard and encourage parents to assist us in laying the important foundations for future learning.

School Aims

In our school we aim to:

- Create a safe, enjoyable learning environment, in which effective learning is facilitated and quality teaching is provided;
- Implement all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- Help our pupils to develop a positive attitude towards life and a love of learning;
- Value, respect and nurture every child in our care;
- Encourage pupils to respect themselves and others, and to support and care for one another;
- Equip our children with the necessary life skills, to enable them to participate in a fast changing society;
- Endorse the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child and work towards the implementation of policies and practices which reflect the Convention;
- Develop and strengthen each pupil's understanding and love of Catholic values, by promoting the Catholic ethos throughout the school; and

- Involve the parents, Board of Governors and wider community in the life of the school, and in the holistic development of the children in our care.

INTRODUCTION

Carrick 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; 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;
- 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 Carrick 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.

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 Carrick 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 (which is available from the class teacher/general store). The child's parents/ carers will be informed.
- 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: Dr A Cassidy (Principal)

Signed: Mr G Murdock (Chairperson of Board of Governors)

Date: September 2023

Review Date: September 2026

Carrick Primary School
Intimate Care
Parent/Carer Permission Form

Please complete and return this sheet to your child's teacher.

- It is the policy of Carrick 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 discreetly accompanied to the toilet by two staff members. The child will be afforded the opportunity to change privately into the underwear provided (which is available from the class teacher/ Principal's office). The child's parents/ carers will be informed.
- Where the child requires more intimate care (e.g. soils him/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.

I have read the above Intimate Care Policy and Procedures and agree to their implementation, if required.

Child's Name: _____

Class: _____

Parent's/ Carer's Signature: _____

Date: _____