



St. Patrick's NS Strangsmills

Intimate care and toileting policy

Revised: 2025

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Intimate care and toileting policy

Introduction

Intimate care is any caring procedure which involves attending to a student when he/she is undressed or partially dressed; helping a student with washing (including intimate parts); helping a student to use the toilet; changing nappies, menstrual care or carrying out a procedure that requires direct or indirect contact with an intimate area of a student; or any procedure carried out while the student is in a state of whole or partial undress. The supervision of students while they are dressing and undressing will also be considered as intimate care.

Aims and objectives

The aims of this policy are:

- To safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of children
- To ensure that the dignity and privacy of the student involved is maintained at all times
- To develop a framework of procedures whereby intimate care requirements are dealt with in an appropriate manner

Responding to incidents (i.e. wetting, soiling, vomiting)

As a staff we act 'in loco parentis' and can deal with a toileting or vomiting accident in school. It is best practice to only provide help that is required by the student. The staff member should encourage the student to do as much for themselves as possible.

Toileting Accidents:

- Parents of Junior Infants will be furnished with a copy of this policy in the school information booklet. The school procedures will be outlined to parents
- A set of clean underwear, wipes, track-suit bottoms etc. are available in the school. Parents/guardians are asked to return "spare" clothes after washing
- In the first instance, the pupil will be offered fresh clothing to clean and change themselves

- If, for any reason, the child is unable to clean or change themselves and if staff must clean /change the child, two members of staff, familiar to the child will attend to him/her. If the child is badly soiled parents will be called to collect the child.
- Parents will be notified of these accidents
- A record of the incident should be kept

Children with Specific Toileting/Intimate Care Needs:

- In all situations where a pupil needs assistance with toileting/intimate care, a meeting will be convened, after enrolment and before the child starts school
- Parents/guardians, Principal, Class Teacher, SNA, and if appropriate, the pupil, will attend
- The specific care needs of the child, and how the school will meet them, will be clarified
- Personnel involved in this care will be identified
- Parents/guardians should provide the school with professional reports (O.T., nurse, Early Intervention Team etc) and/or relevant contact details. Professional report should recommend toileting strategies and support school staff in supporting intimate care needs of the child.
- Provision for occasions when staffs are absent will be outlined (e.g. Substitute SNA's will not generally be involved in intimate care but if unavoidable the change in personnel will be discussed with the pupil, if appropriate)
- Two members of staff will be present when dealing with intimate care needs
- Any changes will be discussed with parent/guardian and pupil and noted in writing to the pupil's file
- As far as possible the pupil will be involved in identification of his/her personal requirements, wishes, changes etc
- Parents are required to supply spare sets of clothing, underwear, wipes and bags for soiled clothing, female sanitary products etc for their child.
- A written copy of the agreement will be kept on the pupils file
- Parents will be notified of any changes from agreed procedures

- At all times the dignity and privacy of the pupil will be paramount in addressing intimate care needs and all instances will be dealt with delicately and discretely.
- Staff will wear protective gloves

Implementation:

This policy will come into effect immediately.

Ratification and review:

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management on September 30th 2025. The policy will be reviewed in the school year 2028/2029 or earlier if necessary.

Signed: Rev. Fr. Martin Tobin

Date: 30/09/2025

Chairperson of BOM