



Naul National School

Intimate Care Policy

Introduction

Intimate care is any care which is associated with invasive procedures relating to bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene which demands direct or indirect contact with or exposure of intimate parts of the body, such as cleaning up after a child who has soiled themselves. In addition, some children may need help with dressing/undressing or using the toilet. Most children can carry out these functions themselves, but it is recognised that some are unable to do so due to physical disability, learning difficulties, medical needs or needs arising from the child's stage of development.

This policy and related procedures have been developed bearing in mind that all physical contact between staff and students:

- Should be aimed at meeting the needs of students
- Should respect the dignity of each student
- Should be consistent with professional integrity of staff members

Toileting 'Accidents'

As teachers, we act 'in loco parentis' and can deal with a toileting accident without assistance. It is good practice to only provide help that is required by the student. The teacher should encourage the student to do as much for themselves as possible. A teacher must always be cognisant of his/her duty of care regarding effective supervision of all the students in the class when assisting a student with toileting. The SNAs are employed to assist in the care needs of the child. At Naul NS, SNA staff are involved on a daily basis in providing intimate care to students who use services arising from learning difficulties, sensory impairments, medical needs and physical impairments. This places staff in a position of great trust and responsibility. They are required to attend to the safety and comfort of those students and to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect.

Toileting of students in the ASD Classes

It is school policy that;

- The personnel involved in intimate care needs of students are usually SNAs but teachers may be involved.
- The SNAs will encourage the child to do as much as they can themselves but may need to assist with wiping/ cleaning.
- There should be a minimum of two staff members present at all times.
- Additional support will be provided by SNA's/ teachers from another class if needed.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents/Guardians need to identify any toileting needs in their application form. Children attending Naul NS should be toilet trained or have a toileting plan in place.

Where possible, Parents/guardians should provide the school with professional reports (O.T., nurse, Early Intervention Team. Enable Ireland etc) and/or relevant contact details. Professional report should recommend toileting strategies and support school staff in supporting intimate care needs of the child. Professional report may also indicate the need for specialised equipment, to ensure the dignity of the child at all times. They should supply the school with the resources required to carry out the toileting or other care needs, which may include, but not be limited to;

- Nappies
- Wipes
- Creams
- Nappy Sacks
- Spare underwear
- Spare Clothes

Intimate Care/Toileting Plan

In the event that a specific toileting need has been identified for a student, an intimate Care/Toileting Plan will be developed in partnership with the student's class teacher, designated SNAs and the student's parents/guardians. The Care Plan must include;

- Specific Care Need
- Additional equipment required
- Child's preferred means of communication to include agreed terminology for body parts and bodily functions. Cues and pictures used at home will be replicated at school.
- Child's level of ability
- Signature of Class Teacher, Parent, SNAs and Principal

Pupils in Distress

The school recognises that there may be times when a pupil is distressed and needs to be comforted and reassured and this might include physical touch such as a caring parent would give. Staff will remain self-aware at all times to ensure that their contact is not threatening and not subject to misinterpretation.

If a child is very distressed the parent will be called to assist and/ or take the child home.

Child Protection

In a situation where an issue of concern arises while carrying out an intimate care task, the staff member will report this concern immediately to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP).

Such issues may include:

- The student seems unusually sore, tender or bruised
- The student seems to misinterpret what is said or done
- The student has a very emotional reaction without apparent cause
- The student makes an allegation against a staff member

Any concerns will be dealt with by the DLP in accordance with Children First and the Department of Education and Skills Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools.

As far as possible the pupil will be involved in identification of his/her personal requirements, wishes, changes etc., and at all times the dignity and privacy of the pupil will be paramount in addressing intimate care needs.

A copy of the Care Plan will be kept on the pupil's file if appropriate and parents will be notified of any changes from agreed procedures.