



Erne Integrated College

Intimate Care Policy

Date of Publication	April 2023
Policy Review Date	April 2026

This Intimate Care Policy has been developed to safeguard our children and our staff. It applies to everyone involved in intimate care of children.

Definition

Intimate care may be defined as any activity required to meet the personal care needs of each individual child (in partnership with the parents/carers and the child)

Intimate care can include:

- Feeding
- Oral care
- Washing
- Dressing/Undressing
- Toileting
- Photographs
- Treatments such as enemas or suppositories
- Catheter and stoma care
- Supervision of a child involved in intimate self care
- Menstrual Care and wellbeing. We have participated in Period Dignity Pilot Scheme in March 22 and March 23 and have received funding from DENI to purchase sanitary products. These are centrally stored in RM 211 – an office off the library. Form Teachers also hold a small supply

Parents/carers have the responsibility to advise staff of the intimate care needs of their child.

Principles of Intimate Care

It is our duty to ensure that all children are treated with the care which any parent would give were they at home.

The following are the fundamental principles of Intimate Care upon which the Policy is based.

- Every child has the right to be safe.
- Every child has the right to personal safety.
- 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 as possible.

Guidelines for Good Practice

As staff are in the role of 'loco parentis' it is accepted that they will carry out the necessary changing routine as a parent would, provided that the parent has completed the Parental Consent Form.

In situations where the consent form has not been completed the school will contact the parent to explain the circumstances of the situation. A record of intimate care will be kept in classroom file.

Continual accidents should be discussed with Learning Support Coordinator and Principal and school nurse may be contacted.

The practise of providing one-one intimate care of one child is supported, unless the intimate care requires two persons for the greater comfort/safety of the child or the child prefers two persons.

As a child can have multiple carers a consistent approach to the care is essential. Effective communication between parents/carers/school ensures practise is consistent.

The approach we take to intimate care can convey lots of messages to a child about their body worth. Our attitude to a child's intimate care is important. Keeping in mind the child's age, routine care can be relaxed, enjoyable and fun.

If staff observe any unusual markings, discolorations or swelling including the genital area, they must report immediately to the designated Teacher. If during the intimate care of a child the staff member accidentally hurts them or the child misunderstands or misinterprets something, the child will be reassured and this incident will be reported immediately to the designated Teacher.

We will report and record any unusual emotional or behavioural response by the child, as per school's child protection policy. If staff have concerns, contact Designated teacher. Parents/carers may be informed about concerns.

Changing Consent Form

- ❖ It is our policy to deal with toileting incidents immediately in order to make your child comfortable and save embarrassment.
- ❖ In the first instance we will encourage the student to change themselves, or contact home. If this is not an option, we will need to change your child.
- ❖ We need your consent; however, to change your child in school.
- ❖ If this is the case, we will ensure that two members of staff are present and parent/carer will be informed.
- ❖ Please complete and return this form to the school.

Name of Pupil _____

Form Class _____

I give my consent for a member of employed staff to change/assist my child if he/she has a toileting accident in school.

Signed _____ Parent/Guardian

Date: _____