



"Learning for Tomorrow"

Ballymoney Model

Controlled Integrated Primary

INTIMATE CARE POLICY

(Created May 2015)

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 3:

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all actions concerning the child.

Introduction

Ballymoney Model Controlled Integrated School staff aim to safeguard the welfare of each child in our care. We will support and encourage each child to become more independent in personal care, however we recognise that some children may need assistance with changing and toileting from time to time.

Principles of Intimate Care

- ❖ 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 in and consulted about 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 these views taken into account
- ❖ Every child has the right to have levels of intimate care that are as consistent as possible

Intimate Care Procedures

With these principles in mind the following intimate care procedures will be followed:-

- ❖ If a child needs a change of clothes he/she will be encouraged by his/her class teacher to change himself /herself where possible. At lunchtime if the child's class teacher is not on the school premises the Principal or Pastoral Leader will assist.
- ❖ If a child needs to change clothes, or be assisted to do so, a suitable place will be used. This will most likely be within one of the toilet areas or classrooms around the school.
- ❖ If a child needs assistance and is agreeable the class teacher will undertake these duties. The child will be talked through the procedure and reassured that he/she will not be left alone.
- ❖ We will endeavour to be as discreet as possible and sensitive to each child's needs.
- ❖ If a child is unable and unwilling to accept assistance to be changed staff will contact parents/carers immediately.
- ❖ If, during an intimate procedure, staff notice any unusual markings, bruising, discolouration, swelling etc these will be notified to the Principal, Designated Teacher for Child Protection, or the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

Parents are expected to ensure that they keep the school informed of the contact numbers at which they, or a nominated adult can be contacted as and when required. They should make themselves available, if necessary to change their child at school, or in the event of an accident, to take their child to the hospital or administer medication.

Monitoring and Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually.

Date approved by the Board of Governors: 203rd Meeting - 2nd June 2015

Review date: June 2016