



Yellow Furze N.S.

Intimate Care and Toileting Policy – Dec. 2021

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, between parents / guardians, class teacher, special needs assistant, principal and, if appropriate, the pupil.

- The purpose of the meeting will be to ascertain the specific needs of the child and to determine how the school can best meet these needs.
- The staff to be involved in this care will be identified and provision will be made for occasions when the particular staff involved are absent.
- A written copy of what has been agreed will be made and kept in the child's file.
- At all times the dignity of the child will be preserved.
- Staff will wear protective gloves, soiled clothes placed in a plastic bag for transportation home.

Two members of staff will be present when dealing with intimate care / toileting needs. Any deviation from the agreed procedures will be recorded and notified to the DLP and the parents / guardians.

a) Toileting accidents

Clean underwear and suitable clothing will be kept in the school so that if any pupil has a wetting incident of this nature they will be offered fresh clothing into which they can change.

If the pupil cannot clean or change themselves (and the parents / guardians cannot be contacted), the child will be assisted by members of staff familiar to the child. In all such situations two members of staff should be present and parents will be informed by telephone or, if not contactable, the teacher will send a note home.

The parents of children with toileting issues should provide the school with additional changes of clothes, wipes etc.

Packs containing a change of underwear, wipes and sanitary protection pads are available for any girl who starts menstruation in school.

b) Physical contact

Physical contact between school personnel and the child should always be in response to the needs of the child. While physical contact in the form of a pat on the shoulder or holding a younger child's hand may be used to comfort, reassure or assist a child, the following should be factors in determining its appropriateness:-

- It is acceptable to the child.
- It is open and not secretive.

- The age and developmental stage of the child.

School personnel must avoid doing anything of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves.

It is accepted that brief physical contact will be necessary to administer minor first aid such as applying a plaster or cleaning a wound. However, if the nature of the injury necessitates the removal of clothing to treat, at least two members of staff should be present during treatment and the parents/guardians informed.

Actions of affection from a child to a member of staff should be handled sensitively but appropriately.

c) Changing for Games / PE /Swimming:

- Pupils are expected to dress and undress themselves for games / PE / swimming.
- Children from 2nd class up should not need assistance with dressing unless they have additional needs.
- Only parents of children with SEN are permitted to dress/undress their own child/ren and must be Garda vetted to so do.
- At all times there must be adequate supervision of pupils.

Whilst every effort will be made to adhere to best practice as agreed and outlined above, in the event of an emergency where this is not possible or practicable, a full record of the incident should be made and reported to principal and parents.

Link to other policy / planning areas:

Prevention: SPHE curriculum, strand unit on 'Safety and Protection'.
The School Code of Behaviour
Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment

Procedures: Anti – Bullying Policy.
Health and Safety Statement.

Practice: Swimming Policy
School Tours / Outings. (Supervision Policy)