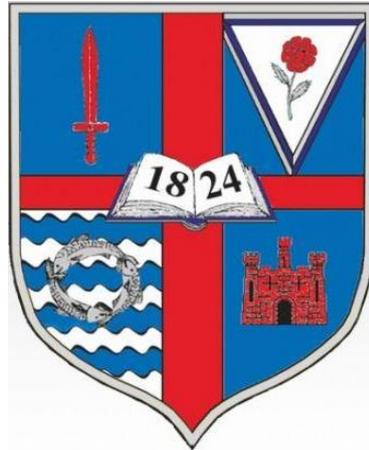


Macosquin Primary School



Intimate Care Policy

'Together as a school family, we are committed to nurturing and **motivating** our children, enabling them to reach their full **potential** and **shine**- today and in the years ahead!'



Introduction

This document outlines the approach to Intimate Care in Macosquin Primary School. The Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines Regarding Children have been developed to safeguard children and staff. This policy is complemented and supported by a range of other school policies including:

- ✓ Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- ✓ Staff Code of Conduct
- ✓ Pastoral Care Policy
- ✓ Health and Safety Policy
- ✓ Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy
- ✓ Use of Reasonable Force/ Safe Handling Policy
- ✓ Inclusion Policy

Definition

In Macosquin Primary School, we agree that 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 child). Intimate care can include; feeding, oral care, washing, dressing, undressing, toileting, menstrual care and supervision of a child involved in personal self-care.

Principles of Intimate Care

The following are the fundamental principles of Intimate Care upon which our Policy and Guidelines are based:

- 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 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.

School Responsibilities

The Principal will ensure that all staff undertaking the intimate care of children are familiar with, and understand the Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines together with associated Policies and Procedures.

During COVID 19 all staff involved in intimate care practices will be provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) and will adhere to Government guidelines for education and childcare settings.

When a child has a specific on-going intimate care need, the care arrangements will be agreed by the school, parents/carers, professionals and child (if appropriate). If necessary, an individual Care Plan to address the intimate care needs of the child will be agreed.

Staff should not undertake any aspect of intimate care that has not been agreed.

Guidelines for Good Practice

All children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect. These guidelines are designed to safeguard children and staff. It is important to bear in mind that some care tasks/treatments

can be open to misinterpretation. Adhering to these guidelines of good practice should safeguard children and staff.

Involving the child in their intimate care

Parents/carers have a responsibility to advise staff of the intimate care needs of their child throughout their years in school. Parents will be asked to give yearly permission so that staff members can assist in the intimate care of their child should an incident occur. Parents who do not wish to give permission will be contacted with the option of coming into school to address the issue or taking the child home when necessary.

In Macosquin Primary School we will try to encourage a child's independence as far as possible in his /her intimate care. Where the child is fully dependent we will talk with them about what is going to be done and give them choice where possible to help develop their own independence in this area. When an accident occurs resulting in a child wetting or soiling, staff will provide facilities for the child to change themselves (wipes and underwear).

We will treat every child with dignity and respect and ensure privacy appropriate to the child's age and situation. We will endeavour to ensure that our practice in intimate care is consistent.

Be aware of own limitations

We, as a staff will carry out care activities that we understand and feel competent and confident to carry out. A record of the care given will be recorded in the Intimate Care Log and the parent/carer informed.

Promote positive self-esteem and body image

Confident, self-assured children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to abuse. 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 any staff member has any concerns he/she must report them immediately.

If any member of staff has any concerns they will report immediately to any member of the Safeguarding Team in the school. A written record of concerns will be made.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will monitor, evaluate and review this policy every 3 years or as the need arises. As a school we will ensure that intimate care procedures are monitored by our Designated Safeguarding Officer. Both children and adults involved are given the opportunity to report any concerns that they may have.