



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Greystones, Co Wicklow

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INTIMATE CARE NEEDS POLICY



2020

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1. Introduction

St Patrick's National School is a co-educational, primary school providing education to pupils from Junior Infants to 6th Class. It is located within the town of Greystones in County Wicklow, and is under the patronage of the Church of Ireland.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

2. Nature of care required

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.
- Parents, Guardians, Principal, Class Teacher, SNA, and if appropriate, the pupil, will attend.
- The specific care needs of the child, and how the school will meet them, will be clarified.
- Personnel involved in this care will be identified.
- Provision for occasions when a member/s of staff is/are absent will be outlined (e.g. Substitute SNA's will not generally be involved in intimate care). Any change of personnel will be discussed with the pupil, if appropriate.
- Where possible two members of staff will be present when dealing with Intimate Care needs.
- Any changes will be discussed with parent/guardian and pupil and noted in writing in the pupil's file.
- As far as possible, the pupil will be involved in identification of his/her personal requirements, wishes, changes etc.
- A written copy of the agreement will be kept on the pupil's file.
- Parents will be notified of any changes from agreed procedures.
- At all times the dignity and privacy of the pupil will be paramount in addressing intimate care needs.
- Staff will wear protective gloves.

- The Board of management has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

3. Risk assessment

(ref Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment)

As highlighted in the Appendix, it should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015, and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post- Primary Schools 2017.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Management has endeavoured to identify, as far as possible, the risks of harm that are relevant to the school, and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in an annual risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

It is reviewed by the Board of Management as part of the school’s annual review of the Child Safeguarding Statement at the first Board meeting of each school year.

4. Procedures

It is common that children can have toileting accidents in school in Junior Infants. In cases of wetting accidents school staff can supervise the child changing into fresh clothing which should be left by parents. However, in instances where a child soils themselves parents/carers will need to come to school to clean their child correctly.

For Junior Infant children, parents are asked to leave a labelled bag with clean underwear, tracksuit bottoms, socks in case in case of wettings.

Toileting Accidents

A. In the infant classes in cases of wetting incidents children will be expected to change out of wet clothing into the dry clothing left by parents.

B. Parents should leave a supply of clean underwear, track-suit bottoms etc will be kept in the school for wetting accidents.

C. In the first instance, the pupil will be offered fresh clothing and will be expected to change themselves.

D. If, for any reason, the child is unable to clean or change themselves, parents/carers will be called.

E. In the case of wetting accidents; where possible two members of staff will attend to the child.

F. Parents will be notified of these accidents.

G. A record of the incident, as outlined in E (above) should be kept

H. In instances where a child soils themselves parent/carers will need to come to school.

5. Training

- CPD
- PDST
- SESS

6. Other school policies

All other school policies, protocols, practices and procedures are implemented with reference to this policy. Those that are particularly relevant include the Garda Vetting Policy; Supervision of Pupils Policy; Tours and Excursions Policy...

The Board has ensured that the necessary policies, protocols or practices as appropriate are in place in respect of each of the above listed items.

7. Ratification

This Child Safeguarding Statement was ratified by the Board of Management.

8. Communication

This policy has been made available to school personnel and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and is readily accessible on the school's website. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department of Education and Skills and the Patron, if requested.

9. Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management as and when a need is recognised. A full review is scheduled for 2023.

Signed: _____

Canon David Mungavin

Chairperson Board of Management

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Rachel Harper

Principal

Date: _____