Policy and Procedures in respect of Intimate Care and Toileting Accidents or Sickness

To ensure, as far as possible, the dignity and safety of children who require intimate care or children who have toileting accidents the following policy will apply to all staff members who support children requiring intimate care or who assist a child who has had a toileting accident or is sick.

The Policy and procedures will apply in cases of

* Wetting
* Soiling
* Vomiting on clothes
* Children who may require assistance following a toileting accident
* Change of clothes
* Children who have an on-going need for assistance with toileting and intimate care

Children who have an on-going need for assistance with toileting and intimate care

The teacher/SNA will provide the child with a change of underwear, which the child uses to change him/herself. If necessary, we will provide a complete change of clothes. The teacher/SNA will assist the child with dressing only if absolutely necessary. Should a child need assistance with dressing and/or cleaning, two adults will always be present. If the child has soiled him/herself the parents will be contacted in order to take their child home. In the event that a parent cannot be contacted the teachers/SNA’s will do all that is necessary to make the child comfortable. Wet/soiled clothes will be put in a plastic bag and parents will be informed of what has happened when they collect their child.

Parents are informed of this procedure at the Junior Infants induction meeting prior to their child starting school.

Changes of clothes and underwear are kept in the secretary’s office. Infant teachers also have a change of underwear in their classrooms. Staff is required to wear protective gloves while changing a child.

**Children with Specific Toileting/Intimate Care Needs:**

Certain children who have particular needs may generally (if not always) require assistance by an adult with toileting/intimate care.   In these cases, two adults will always be present.  If the child has soiled him/herself, the parents will be contacted in order to take their child home.  The SNA/teacher will do all that is necessary to make the child comfortable including where relevant changing any pull-up/nappy. Wet or soiled clothes will be put in a plastic bag and parents will be informed of what has happened when they collect their child.

If assistance is required during playtimes/recreation periods an SNA on supervision duty will bring the child in from the playground and seek the assistance of a teacher in order to comply with the requirements of this policy.

At all times, the dignity and privacy of the pupil will be paramount in addressing intimate care need.

This policy will be discussed with the parents and a copy of the policy will be provided to them.

This policy was ratified by the BoM in October 2018, and further reviewed and amended as need required in February 2019 and March 2019. The revised procedures were ratified by the Board in March 2019. It will be further reviewed as the need arises. The policy is available on the School Website.