International School Rheintal

Intimate Care Policy and Practice

Board approved: June 2024
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ISR Guiding Statements

International School Rheintal Vision

ISR is the school of choice in the Alpen Rheintal region providing a high quality international education in English for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, inspiring international-mindedness, academic and personal excellence and responsible engagement.

Reviewed June 2023

International School Rheintal Mission

ISR is a supportive, challenging and student-centred environment. We encourage each student to reach their potential whilst promoting international-mindedness, empathy and life-long learning. Through teamwork and individual endeavours, members of the school community should:

- Respect and take responsibility for themselves, others and the environment
- Appreciate and respect diversity
- Think critically
- Reflect thoughtfully
- Communicate effectively
- Celebrate success

Reviewed June 2023

1. The objectives of the intimate care policy

Definition

Intimate personal care includes hands-on physical care in personal hygiene, and physical presence or observation during such activities. Intimate personal care tasks can include:

- toileting, wiping and care in the genital and anal areas;
- dressing and undressing;
- application of medical treatment other than to arms, face and legs below the knee;

This policy applies to all staff undertaking personal care tasks with children, particularly those in Kindergarten.

The International School Rheintal is aware that some students may require assistance from members of staff for personal care, including toileting, either due to the age and developmental level of the student, or as a result of a temporary disability or medical need. The main aim of the school is to ensure that our learners are safe, secure and protected from harm.

Aim

The intimate care policy aims to provide a clear framework for staff to ensure the safety and dignity of all students who need support with personal care, including toileting and continence management. It will also clarify for learners and their families the support they can have from school when needed.

Principles

ISR is committed to providing personal care that has been recognised as an assessed need. ISR respects every student and encourages them to achieve their potential. This includes encouraging them to be as independent as they are able with their personal care. We will ensure that students are:

- encouraged to care for themselves as much as they are able and protect the rights of everyone involved;
- treated as individuals;
- guaranteed that their right to safety, dignity and privacy is respected;
- allowed to give or withdraw their consent and that this will be respected;
- involved and consulted about their personal care as far as they are able;

- provided with consistency of care as far as possible;
- guaranteed that their safety and comfort are maximised;
- protected against intrusion and abuse.

Those involved in the intimate care policy are:

- pupils
- teaching staff
- other adults: TA, health and wellbeing assistant, school counsellor, parents of the child, School Nurse.

2. Toilet training

Starting school is an important and potentially challenging time. It is also a time of growth and very rapid developmental change for all children and there is a variation in the time at which children master the skills involved in being fully toilet trained. Children must be fully toilet trained to be accepted into the kindergarten class at ISR. No diapers/nappies/pull-ups to be worn throughout the day. ISR will ensure that anyone who undertakes intimate care in the school has had appropriate safeguarding training, which is certified and renewed annually.

3. School responsibilities

ISR will work with the children's parents/carers to promote and encourage children to be fully toilet trained, unless there are temporary medical reasons why this is not possible.
ISR will not toilet train pupils; therefore, unless a child has a disability, as defined through legislation, it is expected that parents/carers will have trained their child/children to be clean and dry before they start attending ISR. The School Nurse will provide input and may advise that families seek further medical advice from a family doctor.

Staff will take care (both verbally and in terms of their body language) to ensure that the child is never made to feel insecure. Best practice will be followed by ensuring that all of those involved with intimate care receive induction from the School Nurse on these procedures and protocols.

The school agrees to:

- assist the child should they soil themselves or become wet;
- inform parents if a member of staff has changed or assisted a child if they are soiled;

- review arrangements, in discussion with parents/carers, should this be necessary;
- encourage the child's participation in toileting procedures wherever possible;
- the School Nurse liaising with any medical agencies as appropriate.

Board responsibility

- To ensure that sufficient staff are trained to meet the needs of their learners.
- The Board/School Nurse will ensure that this policy is monitored and reviewed at least every three years.

Staff responsibility

During intimate care Staff members will:

- speak to the child personally by name so that he/she is aware of being the focus of the activity;
- give explanations of what is happening in a straightforward and reassuring way;
- enable the child to be prepared for and to anticipate events while demonstrating respect for his/her body;
- always encourage the child to attempt to wash private parts of the body independently, using wipes or tissues;
- provide facilities which offer privacy e.g. separate toileting and changing for boys and girls or at least adequate screening and the changing one child at a time;
- respect a child's preference for a particular staff member and sequence of care;

After intimate care assistance, staff members will report to the School Nurse and Head of Primary School if any medical issues are observed.

4. Safeguarding

ISR will act according to its Safeguarding Policy if there are any concerns for the student's wellbeing. The adult involved in the support of intimate care of the child will inform the teacher and /or another member of staff prior to assisting the child.

There is no written legal requirement that two adults must be present. However, in order to completely secure against any risk of allegation, a second member of staff may be present where resources allow.

In the case of families not co-operating or where there are concerns about the intimate care and wellbeing of the child, concerns will first be raised with the families. A meeting will be arranged with the child's family and could include the School Nurse, a health and well-being staff member and the school Director, to identify the areas of concern. If these concerns persist, the safeguarding lead will meet to decide on the appropriate course of action.

5. Confidentiality

Sensitive information about a child should be shared only with those who need to know, such as the child's parents, the School Nurse and other members of staff who are specifically involved with the child. Other staff members will only be told what is necessary for them to know to keep the child safe.

The sharing of information between ISR and the child's family is important to secure the best care for students. Parental consent is needed for the School Nurse to pass on information to school staff members about their child's health. Parents and staff should be aware that matters concerning intimate care will be dealt with confidentiality and sensitively. The student's right to privacy and dignity is maintained at all times.

NB - Last policy review led in 2024 by Catherine Trainor, Head of Primary School and Lisa Jones, School Nurse