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ANNEX TO INTIMATE CARE POLICY – COVID-19 (2020/21)

This document supplements the existing Intimate Care Policy for Kirkistown Primary School in line with COVID- 19 Guidance for all Educational Settings:

We will continue to meet the needs of those children who require intimate care. Parents should contact the SENCo and the relevant class teacher to discuss. An appropriate risk assessment will be put in place. During intimate care, PPE must be worn. Please see guidance below (DE Restart Guidance 13.8.20). We will ensure this is carried out in a sensitive way. All staff have had awareness training on putting on and removal of PPE.

Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) / Face Coverings

The PHA has published guidance to support safe working in educational settings in Northern Ireland. This advises that routine use of PPE within education settings is not required other than for certain tasks deemed to be of higher risk of transmission.

PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases. These are:

- working with children, young people and pupils whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE, due to their intimate care needs; and
- giving children medication.

PPE in the such situations means:

- fluid-resistant surgical face masks;
- disposable gloves;
- disposable plastic aprons; and
- eye protection (for example a face visor or goggles).

Where PPE is recommended, this means that:

- a facemask should be worn if a distance of 2m cannot be maintained from someone with symptoms of COVID-19 (symptomatic children should not be in school);
- if contact is necessary, gloves, an apron and a facemask should be worn; and
- if a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of fluids entering the eye (e.g. from coughing, spitting or vomiting), eye protection should also be worn.

When PPE is used, it is essential that it is used properly. This includes scrupulous hand hygiene and following guidance on donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) PPE safely to reduce the risk of contamination

Face masks:

- MUST cover both nose and mouth;
- MUST be changed when they become moist or damaged;
- MUST be worn once and then discarded – hands must be cleaned after disposal;
- MUST NOT be allowed to dangle around the neck; and
- MUST NOT be touched once put on, except when carefully removed before disposal.