



Safe Contact Policy

Approved by:	Governors	Date May 2025
Last reviewed on:	New Policy	
Next review due by:	May 2026	

Primary School Safe Contact Policy

1. Purpose:

- This policy aims to provide guidelines for staff regarding appropriate and inappropriate physical contact with pupils, ensuring the safety and well-being of all children.
- It recognises that while minimising inappropriate contact is crucial, certain situations necessitate appropriate physical interaction.

2. Principles:

- **Child-centered:** The child's safety and well-being are paramount.
- **Transparency:** All contact should be open and transparent, avoiding any secrecy.
- **Professionalism:** Staff must maintain professional boundaries at all times.
- **Consent:** Where appropriate, consent should be obtained from the child.
- **Individual Needs:** Staff must be sensitive to individual children's needs, including those with sensory sensitivities or past trauma.
- **Safeguarding:** All staff have a responsibility to report any concerns about inappropriate contact.

3. Acceptable Physical Contact:

- **First Aid:**
 - Physical contact is permitted when providing first aid in accordance with recognised first aid procedures.
 - Where possible, another adult should be present.
- **Physical Education (PE):**
 - Appropriate physical contact is permitted during PE activities, such as demonstrating techniques or providing support.
 - This should be done in a professional and safe manner.
- **Intimate Care:**
 - Physical contact is permitted when providing intimate care in accordance with a child's individual care plan.
 - Intimate care plans must be developed in consultation with parents/carers and relevant professionals.
 - Strict hygiene and safeguarding procedures must be followed.
- **Safe Contact:**
 - Holding hands: Permitted for younger children, particularly during transitions or when providing reassurance.
 - Safe contact side-by-side hugs: Permitted for younger children, when the child initiates, and it is a brief, and comforting action. Often children approach staff and would like a hug, please use this as a teaching opportunity to say 'safe hug' and move your body to a side by side position and limit physical contact.
- **Reassurance:**
 - Appropriate, brief, and non-intrusive contact, such as a hand on the shoulder, may be used to reassure a distressed child.
 - Staff must be sensitive to the child's response and avoid any contact that could be perceived as inappropriate.

4. Inappropriate Physical Contact:

- Any contact of a sexual nature.
- Any contact that is intended to cause harm or distress.
- Any contact that is excessive or unnecessary.
- Any contact that is secretive or occurs behind closed doors without a legitimate reason.
- Contact that is done to meet the adults needs, and not the childs.
- Do not allow children to sit on laps.

5. Reporting Procedures:

- Any concerns about inappropriate physical contact must be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding lead.
- All incidents of physical contact that cause concern must be documented.

6. Training:

- All staff will receive regular training on this safe contact policy.
- Training will cover appropriate and inappropriate physical contact, safeguarding procedures, and reporting requirements.

7. Review:

- This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains up-to-date and effective.