



Acceptable forms of touch/physical intervention in Claygate Primary School

There are many occasions when staff will have cause to have physical contact with children for a variety of reasons, for example:

- Communication
- First Aid
- to comfort a child in distress (so long as this is appropriate to their age)
- to direct a child (holding hands, hand on shoulder etc)
- for educational skills (PE, Drama etc)
- for life skills (changing for PE, toileting, using cutlery etc)
- in an emergency to increase safety to the child and staff

In an emergency incident, staff may take into account the use of reasonable force and their responsibilities under duty of care.

In all situations where physical contact between staff and children takes place, staff must consider the following:

- the child's age, level of understanding and circumstances
- the child's individual characteristics and history
- the location where the contact takes place (it should not take place in private without others present)

If a child requires physical support on a regular basis this information will be documented on an individual plan such as a handling plan, toileting plan or behaviour support plan. Parents will be fully informed and involved in the planning process.

Physical contact is never made as a punishment, or to inflict pain. All forms of corporal punishment are prohibited. Physical contact will not be made with the child or young person's neck, breasts, abdomen, genital area, other sensitive body parts, or to put pressure on joints. It will not become a habit between a member of staff and a particular child.