

KIRKBY MALZEARD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy Title: Guidelines on Physical Contact with Children.

Contact Person: Mrs A.M. Peacock Head Teacher

Rationale:

People working in a school will know that physical contact with children is unavoidable and perfectly natural.

Due to Child Protection requirements it is necessary to give serious consideration to the occasions when we do come into physical contact with the children in our care. It is in their interests, and in our own, especially since we are accountable to parents, employers and society for our actions and are under the spotlight when it comes to how we handle children.

All adults working at Kirkby Malzeard, both employees and voluntary helpers, must undergo a confidential enhanced CRB check to satisfy the authorities of their suitability for the nature of the work, and this is perfectly right and fitting. However, that in itself does not guarantee our suitability in the eyes of those to whom we are accountable. We must be seen to be acting in a way which is beyond reproach.

Aims and Objectives:

This document is offered as guidance as to what is acceptable physical contact with children. It will not cover every single instance, but it should be useful when we come to consider our day to day actions and dealings with children.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Physical contact as a form of corporal punishment is illegal and never acceptable.

There are occasions when physical contact can be fully justified:

1. To give praise and encouragement to children, e.g. a handshake for congratulations.
2. To comfort and console a distressed or injured child, e.g. a child who is upset might benefit from an arm around the shoulder, or a child who needs to be treated for an injury.
3. To administer physiotherapy. Only those who are qualified to do so should take on this responsibility as part of a care plan. Advice and training must have been provided by appropriate agencies, and parental consent must also be gained in writing.
4. To restrain a child, using a reasonable degree of force in relation to a pupil, in accordance with **section 550a of the 1996 Education Act**, for the purposes of preventing him/her doing any of the following;
 - Committing an offence
 - Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person, including him/herself; or

- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils.

It must be remembered that it must not be used as a form of corporal punishment.

Action to be taken:

In all cases, staff should give careful consideration to their actions. If urgent and immediate action is required, we should always try to have another adult present as a witness to the necessary physical contact.

There are occasions where it is the children themselves who make the contact, e.g. children wanting to hold the hand of a teacher or supervisory assistant on playground duty, in the same way they would want to hold the hand of a parent. This is especially true of younger children. To some extent, this comes under the second of the categories mentioned above; in the some children find comfort and security in the physical contact.

In order not to give the child the impression they are being ignored or neglected, it may be appropriate to hold their hand for a short while, before trying to involve them in playing with other children.

In the event of coming into physical contact with a child for a serious injury, as in 2 above, or for restraining a child who is posing a threat, the incident should be reported to either the Head Teacher, or in her absence to the Teacher in Charge at the earliest opportunity. For more serious incidents a Serious Incident Report should be completed stating;

- The facts as you saw them leading up to the incident;
- What action you took;
- What effect your action had;
- Who the witnesses were, if any;
- The time and date of the incident.

Format for this attached.

The report should be signed and handed to the Head Teacher or Teacher in Charge to be kept for further reference.

On occasions our actions can be misinterpreted by others who may not be part to all of the facts. Adherence to these guidelines should counteract this. Serious Incident Reports will also provide useful information for any other agencies who may become involved in any assessment, enquiry or investigation.

Who will be responsible for monitoring? ...Head Teacher.....

Adopted by Governing Body (Date)

Review date:

Alternative formats available on request.

KIRKBY MALZEARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

SERIOUS INCIDENT INVOLVING RESTRAINT OF A CHILD

CHILD INVOLVED:

AGE:

ADULT INVOLVED:

LOCATION

DATE:

TIME:

Describe what happened leading up to the incident, the action you took and the effect your action had.

Name of any witness to event:

Signed

Date

Head Teacher / Teacher in Charge signature

Date