

FINBOROUGH SCHOOL
EYFS PHYSICAL CONTACT POLICY

At Finborough we recommend the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We also recognise that all staff have an active part to play in protecting our children from harm. All staff should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment promoting the social, physical and morale development of individual children. The school understands the importance of working within current regulations and guidelines.

Within the EYFS setting there will be occasions when the staff will need to have some form of physical contact of the children in their care. The school recognises that close, physical contact is vital in order to help them to develop in well-balanced, secure and happy individuals. The school is however aware of the need for clear boundaries for physical contact in order to protect everyone involved. Physical contact may be misconstrued by a child, parent or observer. Touching pupils, including well-intentioned gestures, can (if repeated regularly) lead to questions being raised.

General Guidelines

As a general principle staff must not make gratuitous, physical contact with their pupils. It is particularly unwise to attribute touching to their teaching style or as a way of relating to pupils. There may be some pupils to whom touching is particularly unwelcome for example, some pupils may be particularly sensitive to physical contact because of their cultural background or special needs or because they have been abused.

Where appropriate, staff should receive information on these children, whilst ensuring that all matters of confidentiality and sensitivity remain of paramount importance. Physical contact with pupils becomes increasingly open to question as pupils reach and go through adolescence and staff should also bear in mind that even innocent and well-intentioned physical contact can sometimes be misconstrued.

Where Physical Contact May Be Acceptable

There are occasions when physical contact with a child may be necessary, for example demonstrate exercises or technique during PE lessons, when providing first aid or during the dressing or undressing of children at swimming. Young children and children with special educational needs may need staff to provide physical prompts to help. There may be occasions where a distressed pupil needs comfort and reassurance, possibly due to an accident or disagreement, or a child struggling to separate from a parent or carer, which may include physical comforting such as a caring parent would give. Staff should use their discretion in such cases to ensure that what is normal and natural does not become unnecessary and unjustified contact, particularly with the same child over a period of time. Staff should use their own professional judgement when they feel a pupil needs this kind of emotional support and should reflect the child's needs, age and level of maturity. Where a member of staff has a particular concern about the need to provide this type of care and reassurance they should seek the advice and guidance of the Headteacher or designated safeguarding lead.

Toileting and Intimate Care

When carrying out intimate care staff should also consider our safeguarding policy, health and safety policies and first aid and medicines policy. Intimate care includes tasks that involve the dressing and undressing, washing (including intimate parts), helping someone use the toilet or carrying out a procedure that requires direct or indirect contact to an intimate personal area such as first aid.

When intimate care is given, the member of staff explains fully each task that is carried out, and the reason for it. Staff encourage children to do as much for themselves as they can, lots of praise and encouragement will be given to the child when they achieve. Staff should recall all incidents or intimate physical contact and parents must be informed as soon as is reasonably practical.

Reason for Review/Amendments	Annual review August 2018
Details of changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy reviewed to ensure current legislation and practices are included. • Policy updated with changes to staffing responsibilities.
Date of next review	Annual review August 2019 (EYFS Governance)

Name	Position	Responsible for	Signature	Date
J Sinclair	Principal	Governance / Oversight		
L Sinclair	HR Director	Recruitment / Staff policies		
S Clark	Headteacher	Document Control and Implementation (academic staff)		
R Bridgeman	Deputy Head of Early Years	Practise and policies in EYFS		
K Walmsley	Headteacher's PA / Admissions	Document Administration (non – academic)		