



Orston Primary School Positive Touch Policy

As a school we believe that positive touch has many benefits such as, for example providing reassurance and guidance. This policy explains the school's position on positive touch and provides some guidance on its use in order to protect both staff and children.

The school's policy for restrictive physical intervention shows the procedures that we follow if physical intervention needs to be used in a restrictive way.

Positive touch is a basic human need. We interact daily with young children including EYFS age children who are naturally tactile and affectionate. We want to make sure that their needs are met and that they develop caring, positive relationships with others. If a child initiates contact or needs reassurance, we want our staff to feel confident that they can respond naturally without fear of unfounded accusations. We want parents to feel confident that we will respond appropriately to their children's needs, and to understand that positive touch may be a part of that response. We believe that avoiding using positive touch when appropriate would have a negative effect on the children in our school and our school community.

The following guidance gives examples of situations where positive touch is appropriate. This list is not exhaustive and there will be many more instances where it may be used appropriately.

Examples of Acceptable Touch

- First Aid – eg cleaning wounds, applying plasters
- Personal hygiene-eg changing soiled clothing, cleaning themselves, helping to put on sunscreen.
- Getting changed for PE- eg dressing, undressing, tying hair back, putting swimming hats on.
- During lessons- eg supporting in PE, showing how to hold a pencil/scissors, using a mouse, applying makeup for drama shows
- Responding to their initiated contact- eg returning a hug, holding hands
- Reassuring and comforting children- eg when they are upset or worried or in need of guidance, a child may be allowed to sit on an adult's lap in the classroom (EYFS age children) or offered a hug as appropriate.
- Praise- eg reaffirming 'well done' with a gentle pat on the shoulder.
- Safety – eg crossing the road, preventing children from hurting themselves

If there are concerns about inappropriate touch by a member of staff or by a child, these should be reported immediately to Ms Nikki Crosby (Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher) or Mr Owen Marriott (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) and they will be dealt with following the school's safeguarding procedures. This policy will be shared with parents on the school website and when their child starts school.