



SUMMERHILL INFANT SCHOOL



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PHYSICAL CONTACT AND RESTRAINT BETWEEN STAFF AND PUPILS POLICY

Document Summary

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Amendment History

Version	Amendment Date	Pg Num	Amendment Summary

Rationale

It is unrealistic to suggest that Teachers and other School Staff should touch children only in emergencies. Particularly with younger children, touching them is inevitable and can give welcome reassurance or comfort to the child. However, School Staff must bear in mind that even perfectly innocent actions can be misconstrued and must, therefore, conduct themselves accordingly.

Aims

- To provide a safe environment for children, staff and visitors.
- To provide children and staff with a level of protection.
- To provide a framework in which physical restraint, if necessary, will be carried out properly and with the necessary training.
- To follow the LA Guidelines as set out in Guidelines for the use of Physical Restraint in Schools.

Guidelines

- Curriculum. The level and type of physical contact will reflect the educational and social needs of the pupils, eg physical contact is likely to occur in some PE and Drama activities as well as for children who require a personal assistance programme.
- Changing clothes. Although children are encouraged to be independent, there are occasions when children need help from an adult especially with zips and buttons. We



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will ensure two adults are present when cleaning and changing the clothes of a wet or soiled child.

3. Accidents/Illness/Distress. If a child has an accident, is ill or distressed, it is sometimes necessary for an adult to provide comfort e.g. putting an arm round the child or sitting the child on a member of staff's knee. Sometimes contact is initiated by the child and would be reciprocated appropriately.
4. Restraint/Discipline. Occasionally, as a last resort, it is necessary to restrain children for their own safety and for the safety of others. The level and duration of such restraint will always be the minimum necessary to restore safety for all concerned.
5. Unintentional contact. Occasionally unintentional contact can occur in crowded areas and may be misunderstood by the child.
6. Recording Events and Actions. It is envisaged that the Headteacher (or Deputy Head) will have been summoned before physical restraint is required, but in exceptional circumstances all incidents involving the physical restraint of a pupil must be discussed as soon as possible with the Headteacher and logged by member(s) of staff involved. The Headteacher will always inform Parents and Carers and give them an opportunity to discuss what has happened.

Conclusion

These guidelines apply to all staff. Parents/Carers and other helpers will be supported by staff in implementing the policy.

Physical Restraint of Pupils at Summerhill Infant School

Reminder to Staff of DO and DON'Ts

DO.....

- Know the procedures within the school's guidelines for the use of physical restraint.
- Discuss these with a senior member of Staff if you are unsure of any point.
- Be aware of pupils who have been physically restrained before and what happened.
- Use distraction techniques when appropriate.
- Send for adult help early if things begin to get out of hand and restraint seems likely.
- Assess the situation before acting.
- Stay calm - Do not over-react.
- Use minimum restraint for minimum time.



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- Report the incident to the Headteacher or Senior Member of Staff as soon as possible and complete a report form.
- Consult your Professional Association or Trade Union if you have any concerns.
- Remember your professional obligations to all pupils in your care.

DO NOT

- Place yourself at risk: Do not attempt to restrain a pupil who obviously carries a “weapon”.
- Attempt to restrain a pupil unless you have full self-control.
- Allow the situation to get out of control.
- Use excessive force.
- Place yourself at risk of false allegation: Avoid being alone with any pupil.

All School Policies at Summerhill Infant School should be read in conjunction with all Safeguarding, Child Protection and Equalities Policies.