



Hoo St Werburgh Primary School and Marlborough Centre

Touch POLICY

April 2017

Signed..... Signed.....
Head of School – T Deevoy Chair of Governors – I Chappell

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Introduction

Here at Hoo St. Werburgh Primary School & Marlborough Centre, we see touch as an every day act of communication by a physical means to indicate approval, affection or sympathy. Pats on the shoulder, a held hand or an arm around a shoulder are powerful and appropriate actions. Touching can be a positive reinforcement to relationships and a comfort in times of distress. It can also be an effective reinforcement to academic achievement.

Policy statement

Staff should only ever be making physical contact with the upper part of the body and this primarily should be the hands, arms and shoulder area. If pupils are going to sit on staff laps they should sit side on, positioned on the long bone of the leg. If staff are sitting on the floor with pupils they once again should have the pupil sitting to their left or right side, or as described above – never should a pupil be sat between the legs.

Personal care

There may be aspects of personal care which fall within this policy such as

- helping a child to rub in suncream to face, neck and ears.
- tying hair back
- undoing a stuck button when getting changed for PE

Younger pupils should be able to rub their own suncream into their forearms and lower legs but it is appropriate to give assistance with this as well if needed. It should be noted that pupils should be encouraged to undertake as much personal care for themselves as possible.

Intimate care

Sometimes it is necessary to toilet train or have to change pupils due to a range of bowel conditions associated with autism, SEN or due to pupil's delayed development. The school have an **intimate care policy** for this specific circumstance which should be referred to. Intimate care does **not** fall within the touch policy.

Safeguarding staff and pupils

Staff should always be mindful of the physical context of their actions. If accusations of inappropriate physical contact with pupils are made then these accusations can only be proven unfounded if witnesses are present. Touching as previously defined should be carefully considered or avoided in conditions that are private and in areas where there is no open access.