



## **St Mark's Catholic School Physical Contact Policy**

### **Aims**

The emotional and physical safety of children is of the utmost importance to the staff and governors of St Mark's Catholic School. The purpose of this policy is to clarify and explain the circumstances where physical contact with pupils may be appropriate or necessary. It should be read in conjunction with our intimate care policy and our school safeguarding policy. This policy applies to all staff. It does not differentiate between managers, teachers, support and clerical staff.

All members of staff who have contact with pupils must clearly understand the options and strategies open to them. Staff, parents and pupils all need to be aware of the options and strategies that may be employed in various circumstances.

### **Unnecessary Physical contact**

- Children sitting on adults laps.
- Adults hugging/kissing children
- Picking children up, unless for first aid reasons.
- Touching of bare skin other than hands
- Removal of child's earrings without written consent from parents or adult will provide child with micro pore tape and they will place over their own earrings.
- Removal of splinters
- Tying up of hair unless for PE

### **Contact for First Aid or Hygiene Purposes**

- Physical contact will be necessary if a child requires first aid.
- Two members of staff should be present when a child is being treated for first aid (including one qualified first aider), unless in an emergency and action needs to be taken quickly by the first member of staff on the scene.
- If a member of staff suspects a child has an injury under their clothing, two members of staff should be present when clothing is being removed.
- Two members of staff should be present when dealing with a child who has soiled themselves.

### **Instances when Physical contact may be Necessary**

- Holding a child's hand to lead them
- Members of staff who have received restraint training are authorised to prevent a child from hurting themselves or others.
- A member of staff may need to take a distressed child from the arms of their parents. Parents will have given signed permission to do so.



### **Acceptable Contact during Physical Education**

- Helping a child put a swimming cap on
- Demonstrating a particular sporting technique
- Two adults should be present when helping children to do buttons/zips/laces. Children will be encouraged to help each other where possible, rather than asking staff.
- Due to health and safety, a member of staff can help a child tie their hair back.

### **Points to note**

- Outside agencies should read and adhere to physical contact policy
- During after school clubs a member of SMT should be in school to support with first aid and releasing children to parents.
- Parents should ensure children are sent to school in appropriate clothing that they are able to change in/out of independently.

**Policy Created: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Reviewed and Amended: July 2021**

**Next Reviewed: July 2023**