



# ***Raysfield Schools***

## ***Physical contact with Children***

### Rationale.

All adults in school should treat children as a caring parent would.

### Guidelines.

- A child who is hurt or upset will often seek reassurance or comfort from an adult, a cuddle or to sit on an adult's lap to recover.
- To ensure there are no misunderstandings:
  1. Never be alone with a child who needs comfort, leave doors open.
  2. When changing a child's clothes or inspecting an injury in a personal area, have another adult with you or inform the Head. Leave doors open i.e. in the Teddy Bear room/First Aid Room. Please remember some children may find this embarrassing – be sensitive.
  3. Never invite or encourage cuddles, kisses etc.
  4. Inform the Head or SLT representative if a child is persistently and inappropriately physically demanding. Keep notes if you are concerned, this could be a sign of abuse. (as per Safeguarding policy)

### **In extreme and dangerous circumstances the following may apply:**

- Reasonable force may have to be used to hold a child if
  1. Action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury.
  2. Where there is a developing risk of injury or significant damage to property.
  3. Where a child is behaving in a way that is compromising good order and discipline.
- Physical intervention could include the following: (with another adult present)
  1. Physically interposing between children.
  2. Blocking a child's path
  3. Leading a child by the hand or arm using the "caring C's" approach from Team Teach training.
  4. Shepherding a child away by placing a hand in the centre of the back.
  5. In extreme circumstances, Team Teach trained staff may need to use a specific hold e.g. a T wrap as per training.
  6. Other children should be removed from dangerous situations.

Staff should be regularly trained and all Team Teach trained staff receive a refresher at least every three years.

## Conclusion.

- Parents should be informed of repeated incidents which have involved the need to comfort the child. Parents should also be informed about any incident where reasonable force has needed to be employed. A written record should always be kept of any incident causing concern using the Bound and Numbered Book.

*We take opportunities to maximize positive impacts for sexuality, disabled and non-disabled people, people of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, girls, boys, men and women.*

**Links: IWT Policy**  
**Behaviour**  
**Use of Force**  
**Safeguarding**

Ratified:

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