

**PRIOR HEATH INFANT SCHOOL  
POLICY AND PROCEDURES STATEMENT**

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**TITLE: Prior Heath Touch Policy (Surrey Model)**

**DATE: February 2022  
REVIEW: October 2024**

**APPROVED/MONITORED BY: Children and Learning Committee  
AGREED BY: Whole school staff and Governors**

Acceptable forms of touch/physical intervention in Prior Heath Infant School.

There are many occasions when staff will have cause to have physical contact with children or young persons for a variety of reasons, for example:

- Communication
- First Aid
- to comfort a child or young person in distress (so long as this is appropriate to their age)
- to direct a child or young person (holding hands, hand on shoulder etc)
- for educational skills (PE, Drama etc)
- for life skills (changing for PE, toileting, using cutlery etc)
- in an emergency to increase safety to the child or young person and staff.

In an emergency incident staff may take into account the use of reasonable force and their responsibilities under duty of care.

In all situations where physical contact between staff and children or young persons takes place, staff must consider the following:

- the child or young person's age and level of understanding
- the child or young person's individual characteristics and history
- the location where the contact takes place (it should not take place in private without others present).

If a child or young person requires physical support on a regular basis this information will be documented on an individual plan such as a handling plan, toileting plan or behaviour support plan.

Physical contact is never made as a punishment, or to inflict pain. All forms of corporal punishment are prohibited. Physical contact will not be made with the child or young person's neck, breasts, abdomen, genital area, other sensitive body parts, or to put pressure on joints. It will not become a habit between a member of staff and a particular child or young person.