



**Cleeve Prior CE Primary
School**

'Safe Touch policy'

Our vision

Our vision is to provide a safe, caring and nurturing environment, where everyone is given opportunities to learn, discover and grow in our changing world. We will live out our Christian values of Respect, Hope, Love, Forgiveness, Trust and Honesty and strive to guide our community into leading fruitful lives, learning from Jesus' teachings, to love themselves and one another in order to achieve success. 'Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life.'

Proverbs 22:6

We believe our vision, along with its associated values, set the tone for our entire ethos as a school community. We want to give our children the best start, be led by the example of Jesus' life and for all our children to know that they can achieve anything if they put their mind to it. Our role as a school is to help them to become citizens of the future, to lead and inspire others. At Cleeve Prior we treat each child as an individual.

Adults at Cleeve Prior C of E Primary School understand that positive relationships are fundamental in securing outstanding attitudes and behaviour. We expect that all children will be guided by our school values and excel in their learning. However, we understand that at times children will face challenges. Some children will have an inner resilience to cope with these challenges but other children will need extra support in order to cope with the demands of the school day, their home life and social interaction. We recognise that consistency is key to promoting positive behaviour in the school.

Purpose of this policy

The DfE's guidance document, 'Use of reasonable force in schools', which was published in 2013, makes clear that there are occasions when physical contact with a pupil, other than reasonable force, is appropriate and necessary.

This Safe Touch Policy has been created with the aim of ensuring that all members of staff are aware of their responsibilities in terms of appropriate and inappropriate touch when involving pupils.

All children are entitled to receive an education in an environment where they feel safe, secure and respected. The school will dedicate itself to ensuring that no pupils feel threatened or disrespected, in terms of physical contact between themselves or a member of staff.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to the following legislation, including, but not limited to:

- The Children Act 1989
- Equality Act 2010

This policy will also have due regard to the following guidance:

- DfE 'Use of reasonable force in schools' 2013
- DfE 'Working together to safeguard children' 2015

The school will implement this policy in conjunction with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Behaviour Policy and Equality Policy.

Roles and responsibilities

All members of staff at our school have a duty of care towards pupils, and must be aware of the boundaries involving physical contact.

The Head of School is responsible for conducting annual safeguarding training and monthly safeguarding activities for all members of staff and ensuring that they are aware of their responsibilities, in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The Head of School is responsible for ensuring that all staff engage in safe touch with pupils, and only where absolutely necessary.

All members of staff are responsible for ensuring that no pupil feels threatened or unsafe at our school as a result of inappropriate touch.

All members of staff have a responsibility to report any instances of inappropriate touch to the Head of School.

The Head of School is responsible for communicating with parents/carers and ensuring that they are aware of this policy.

The school has a responsibility for ensuring that they create and promote a culture in which pupils' wishes and feelings are respected.

What is safe touch?

For the purpose of this policy, "safe touch" is defined as physical contact that, if otherwise avoided, would be inhumane, unkind and potentially emotionally or physically damaging for the pupil.

Safe touch should never be invasive, humiliating or flirtatious.

The school understands that the following examples are instances of safe touch which may occur between staff and pupils:

- Comforting an upset or distressed pupil
- Congratulating or praising a pupil
- Holding the hand of a pupil to guide them, such as when crossing a road or walking to assembly
- Giving first aid to a pupil
- Demonstrating exercises or techniques during PE lessons, administering medicine or when using musical instruments

Types of safe touch

The school understands that certain types of physical contact between staff and pupils are inappropriate, such as hugging, lap-sitting and some instances of holding hands.

The school recognises that the only appropriate places to touch pupils are on the shoulders, arms and back.

The school places the following restrictions on hugging:

- At our school staff may use safe touch for reward or comfort
- Staff are permitted to use the school-hug. This is a sideways hug whereby the member of staff places their hands on the pupil's shoulders.
- At our school we understand that there are times when a member of staff will need to hold a pupil's hand, either to guide them or to prevent them from being physically harmed. Hand holding for any other purpose is not permitted
- This school recognises that all instances of lap-sitting are inappropriate and therefore discourages this interaction between members of staff and pupils and would encourage the member of staff to pull up a chair next to a child.

Reasonable force

The school understands that there are times when members of staff must provide physical intervention whereby a child presents danger to themselves or others.

Many members of our staff team have undertaken Positive Physical Intervention training.

Any occurrences of the use of reasonable force will be reported to the Head of School, who will keep a written record of this and communicate it to the pupil's parents/carers.

Reporting inappropriate touch

If a pupil attempts to engage in any inappropriate touch, the member of staff involved will report this immediately to the Head of School, in order to prevent any allegations of inappropriate physical contact.

If another member of staff suspects or witnesses inappropriate physical contact, whereby the member of staff is willingly involved, they will report this to the Head of School immediately.

The Head of School will keep a written record of all instances of reported inappropriate touch.

Any allegations against staff will be dealt with as a matter of urgency, and in accordance with the procedures outlined in the school's Allegations Against Staff Policy.

Training of staff

The Head of School will conduct annual safeguarding training for all members of staff in relation to safe touch.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the Head of School, who will make any necessary changes and communicate this to all members of staff.

This policy was reviewed Autumn 2024 and will be reviewed Autumn 2025.