



Windmill Hill Community Academy

Physical Contact Policy

The An Daras Multi Academy Trust (ADMAT) Company
An Exempt Charity Limited by Guarantee
Company Number/08156955

Status: Approved	
Recommended	
Statutory	No
Version	V1.0
Adopted (v2.0)	Autumn 2016
Review (v2.0)	Autumn 2018
Advisory Committee	Local Governing Advisory Body
Linked Documents and Policies	Safeguarding SEND SEND Local Offer Positive Handling Intimate Care Access to school for Pupils with Medical Needs Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings (Oct 2015)



1 Rationale

Windmill Hill Academy recognises its responsibility both to provide curriculum access for pupils with disabilities and to ensure the health, safety and welfare of its employees as far as is reasonably practicable.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs may at times require physical handling more than their mainstream contemporaries.

2. Examples of need for physical contact

- A pupils with SEND may require support to walk, dress / undress and go up and down steps to the playground.
- A pupil may need some physical intimate care from time to time to maintain their physical comfort or for changing needs e.g. soiled clothing or changing an ileostomy bag.
- In all these instances, the needs and dignity of the child must be respected

3 In response to distressed or ill pupils physical contact will be given to comfort and reduce stress. Examples of this may include:

- A Pupil with cerebral palsy in spasm or pain e.g. rubbing legs in spasm;
- Comforting a pupil who is frightened or distressed e.g. recovering epileptic pupils;
- Supporting a pupil who is distressed or is in pain;
- Supporting a pupil who has poor balance and has fallen / tripped;

4 Educational and classroom tasks that may require physical contact from support staff. Examples of this may include:

- Guiding their hand e.g. writing, colouring, painting, gluing;
- Swimming programmes;
- Physiotherapy programmes;
- Massage;
- Desensitising programmes;
- Sensory Diet activities.

All such support will be done in the presence of other Academy staff and all will be able to justify the amount of physical contact given if asked.

Physical contact must initially be agreed by the person with parental responsibility in principle. All Academy staff must understand these arrangements and must consistently apply them and know they are subject to scrutiny. Consultation with colleagues should take place if any deviation from the arrangements is anticipated.

In line with Academy guidelines, wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis; ideally there will be a rota of carers known to the child who will take turns providing care. This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, whilst at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers. This will apply both in class, at mealtimes and on trips out as a class.

In line with Academy Child Protection Guidelines, any child who is distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff will have the matter looked into and the outcomes recorded. If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed.

Summary

The Academy values each child as a unique individual. We will strive to meet the needs of all our children, and seek to ensure that we meet all statutory requirements related to dealing with physical contact.

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored by the governing body, and will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.

Arrangements for the Treatment of Complaints:

The Complaints procedure is included in the ADMAT Complaints Policy and this is reviewed annually by the Local Governing Body/Board of Directors.

Signed..... Head of School

Signed..... Chair LGAB