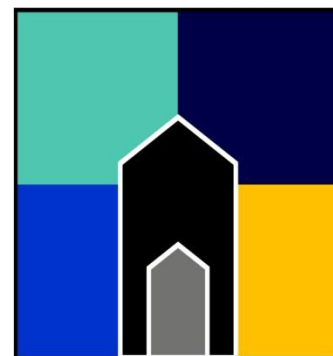




An Daras
Multi Academy Trust



AnDarasMulti-Academy Trust

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

Status: Approved	
Recommended	
Version	v1.1
Statutory	Yes
Adopted v1.1	Spring 2015
Review v1.1	Summer 2017
Advisory Committee	LGAB/School Improvement and Strategic Development Committee
Linked Documents and Policies	ARB curriculum and all individual documents and plans relating pupils Safeguarding policy Child Protection policy Team Teach policy Feeding Policy Intimate Care policy Moving and Handling Policy

St Stephens Community Academy

Physical Contact Policy

Reviewed and adopted–**Summer 2017**

Reviewed by the ADMAT Board of Directors –

To be read in conjunction with

‘Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults Who Work With Children and Young People in Education Settings’

DCSF May 2009

Rationale

The pupils in the ARB will of necessity because of their severe or profound complex needs, require physical handling more than their mainstream contemporaries.

Examples of need for physical contact

Some pupils may require lifting into equipment, although hoisting should be used where possible. Others may need feeding or food wiping from around their mouths to maintain their physical comfort. Pupils may need to have support to walk, dress / undress and go up and down steps. Many will need some physical intimate care from time to time to maintain their physical comfort. Getting into vehicles or using their specialist equipment may also require physical contact. In all these instances, the needs and dignity of the child must be respected.

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

- Pupils 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;
- Rubbing a pupil’s back who has trapped wind;
- Rocking a pupil who is distressed or is in pain;
- Supporting a pupil who has poor balance and has fallen / tripped;

Educational and classroom tasks that may require physical contact from support staff.

Examples of this may include:

- Guided hand over hand e.g. writing, colouring, painting, gluing;
- Swimming and hydrotherapy programmes;
- Physiotherapy programmes;
- PE skills e.g. ball and gym skills;

Massage;
Desensitising programmes;
Sensory Diet activities.

All such support will be done in the presence of other 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 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 County 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 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.

Other relevant policies

The following policies need to be born in mind when reading this policy:

Safeguarding policy
Child Protection policy
Team Teach policy
Feeding Policy
Intimate Care policy
Moving and Handling Policy

This policy will be shared with all staff and be available on the staff area of the school website.

Review timetable

This policy was written in the Spring term 2015. It was reviewed in Summer term 2017. It will be reviewed in Summer 2019 by ARB Leader.

Policy first agreed – **Spring 2015**

Review –**Summer 2017**

Policy published on website – **Summer 2017**

Signed..... Chair LGAB

Signed..... Head of School

Signed..... Executive Head Teacher

Date.....