AnDarasMulti-Academy Trust

St Stephens Community Academy Physical Contact Policy - DRAFT

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

Status: **Awaiting approval by Local Governing Body**	
Recommended	
Version	v1.3
Statutory	No
Adopted v1.3	**Autumn 2018**
Review v1.4	**Autumn 2022**
Advisory Committee	LGAB/School Improvement and Strategic Development Committee
Linked Documents and Policies	• Child Protection policy • Policy for control or restraint of pupils • Intimate Care policy • Moving and Handling Policy • SEND Policy • SEND Local Offer • SEN Information Report

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St Stephens Community Academy

Physical Contact Policy

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 out of necessity because of their severe or profound complex needs, will require physical handling more than their mainstream contemporaries. There is also a possibility of mainstream pupils with additional needs being in need of additional support.

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 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 unwell 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;
- Supporting a pupil to keep them safe e.g. going to ground in dangerous or inappropriate places. This may lead to the need for Team Teach (positive handling –

please refer to our policy):
http://www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk/web/whole_school_policies/205048

- Sensory Diet activities.

All such support will be completed 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.

Reports and information
This policy will be shared with all staff and published on our school website.

Signed…….. Chair LGAB

Signed…….. Head Teacher

Date……

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