

TOUCHING POLICY

Rationale:

'he placed his hands on everyone of them and healed them all.' Luke 4:40

Our Catholic Faith centres around Jesus' love for us. In teaching about Jesus' love through the use of stories of his healing miracles, we are teaching our children that **touch** and **love** go together. Within the practices of our Church:

- e.g. 1. shaking hands at the Sign of Peace,
- e.g. 2. laying on of hands during a blessing,

we promote the message that touch can be associated with forgiveness and love. As such in the living out of our faith within our Catholic environment we believe the use of touch in an appropriate manner is essential to our Christian mission. At the same time we recognise our responsibility in teaching our children about inappropriate and unacceptable forms of touching.

Aims:

- ◆ For all children and staff to feel comfortable and safe.
- ◆ For all children and staff to be clear about the kind of touching which is unacceptable.
- ◆ For all children and staff to report any unacceptable touching.
- ◆ For all children and staff to be free to set their own parameters providing these do not exceed agreed acceptable levels of touching.

Unacceptable Touching

1. Forceful touching

Touching which involves force is not acceptable. (The exception being where it is necessary for the safety of others or of a given child that a child be physically restrained. Where this is necessary the child will be released when safety can be resumed.)

2. Any touching of genital areas

If a child has diarrhoea, the child should be asked to clean themselves as far as possible. The child should be supervised by 2 members of staff whilst being helped to clean themselves. The child's parents/carers should be informed and a letter sent home.

3. Intimate touching

Touching of sensitive areas (bottom, breasts, mouth) in an intimate way is not acceptable.

The children will be made aware of acceptable/unacceptable touching through our Health Education Programme.

Staff will be consulted annually on our policy on touching at the staff meeting relating to Safeguarding Procedures.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The effectiveness of our policy on touching will be monitored informally by the SLT throughout the year from feedback from staff, children and parents, including:

- complaints - where a complaint is made this will be recorded and if necessary the Child Protection Procedures will be invoked.
- positive comments relating to procedures, and the security and happiness of the children and staff

The success of our policy will be evaluated annually at the staff meeting on Safeguarding Procedures and any necessary changes will be adopted.

Initial date of policy: October 1996
Policy last reviewed: July 2018

It is the intention to review this policy annually.