



# HARPOLE PRE-SCHOOL

"Kind Hands, Kind Hearts, Fun

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## 1.6: Appropriate contact Policy & Procedure

### Policy statement

Harpole Preschool has adopted the Preschool Learning Alliance (PLA) Appropriate Contact. The PLA ensure that their policies adhere to statutory guidance and legislative procedure and they provide the preschool with any updates. All policies and procedures are ratified by the Preschool Trustees on a rolling programme. The preschool staff, led by Sharon Matthews, ensure that their practice is in line with the policies and procedures outlined in the PLA guidance.

Our pre-school believes that an appropriate level of adult physical contact is essential for the healthy emotional and social development of the children in our care.

We aim to provide a secure, caring and nurturing environment that supports the children's emotional and social development and helps them to establish considerate and rewarding relationships with other children and adults.

### Procedure

Our staff will offer the appropriate level of physical contact for each child:

- When it is welcomed or requested by the child.
- To offer the child a sense of emotional well-being or security when they need to be comforted, reassured or calmed in any way.
- To support the child's emotional and social development in an appropriate manner and encourage a sense of positive self-esteem and confidence.
- To ensure that their safety is protected.
- To prevent or remove any physical discomfort or emotional distress.

Appropriate Contact can be described as follows:

**Nurturing** - This includes hugs, hand holding, carrying and cuddling. This type of contact is never made against the wishes of the child, whether expressed verbally or through gesture or body language. The intention is to offer comfort for a child when they are distressed or upset. It is also normal and healthy for children to express affection for their peers.

**Safety and Guidance** – Staff, who are qualified as first aiders, may need to administer first aid to injuries. Guidance involves restraining children away from harmful situations, firmly holding during tantrums, separating physically conflicting children or directing children by gently leading or guiding them.

**Hygiene** – This includes face and handwashing, nose wiping, assisting with bathroom duties appropriate to the age and personal development of the child eg nappy changing or bottom wiping, and assisting with or conducting necessary clothing changes. In preparation for starting school, pre-schoolers are encouraged to change into PE kit if they want to - staff will offer assistance as required by each child. All staff overseeing these duties will be subjected to the necessary police and CRB clearances.

**Discipline** – Our staff never use physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking. We promote a “kind hands” philosophy and do not tolerate thumping, kicking or slapping between the children. Refer to our Behaviour Management Policy for further information.

**Ratified on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**