



Safe Touch Policy

Overview and Intent

Kinetic Sports Group is committed to ensuring that all children and adults have positive relationships in the setting and that these relationships contribute to the safeguarding and wellbeing of the children. There may be occasions when physical contact with a child may be necessary and we will ensure that everyone feels safe, secure and respected.

‘Safe touch’ is defined as physical contact that, if otherwise avoided, would be detrimental to the individual. Examples include:

- **Comforting an upset or distressed child**
- **Congratulating a child (high five)**
- **Holding the hand of a child to guide them (age/stage appropriate)**
- **Giving first aid**
- **Demonstrating exercises or techniques during physical activity**

Please see our separate policy on intimate care.

Legal Context

This policy takes in to account the following legislation and best practice guidance:

Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework 2021

Children Act 1989

Equality Act 2010

DfE Use of reasonable force in schools 2013

DfE Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Guidance for Safe Working Practice 2019

Procedures

We are highly aware of differing views and misinterpretation, due to fears of abuse. Touch as a natural and important form of human connection has been 'banned' in some settings. Our policy is in place on the understanding that every member of the team needs to understand the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touch. We require all staff members to understand when and how safe touch should be used and this is covered during staff induction and training. Touch is not to be used as an ill-thought out or impulsive act of futile reassurance/gratification or as a block to referral for psychological assessment.

- All staff are trained in safeguarding and through induction have an understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe and the definitions of each of the categories of abuse
- Any 'safe touch' technique should not be applied without the consent of the child. Consent can be implied through the child reaching out to take someone's hand, for example or verbal consent can be given
- Staff should operate a 'be seen' approach in order to protect the child and themselves. Two adults is best practice, where possible
- Any 'safe touch' should be necessary and appropriate for the situation which the child is in. Children should be encouraged to be as independent as they can.
- Where touch is used, contact should be brief and gentle, on clothed or publicly visible parts of the body: hands, arms, shoulders, head, hair, shoes
- Where comforting a child through a hug is needed, a 'side hug' should be applied which is where the member of staff is at the side of the child and not at the front of the child

This policy should be read in conjunction with our Intimate Care Policy.

Date	Summary of Changes	Other Comments
28 th February 2023	Policy Adopted	Revision due 27/2/2024