

Callow End CE Primary School

Touch Policy

2026 -2027



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Review: September 2027

School Vision

‘Building a foundation for love and learning’

At Callow End we provide a caring environment where everyone works together to build a firm foundation for love and learning. As a foundation for love we provide a welcoming, safe and supportive environment in which the qualities and abilities of all our pupils are nurtured and celebrated. We use our school’s Christian values to guide us, sharing an ethos of love and respect, treating everyone in the way that we would like to be treated. We strive to celebrate differences both in our school community and around the world through our teaching, learning and shared life with our Church.

As a foundation for learning, we promote excellence, providing an inspirational curriculum which enables all pupils to aspire, achieve and flourish. We want our children to have positive emotional and mental health, and an understanding of their place in the wider world.

All our policies are written to reflect and support this vision.

Touch Policy

At our school, we have a touch policy. This means that as a member of staff you are able to physically guide, touch or prompt children in an appropriate way at appropriate times. However, generally staff should not be instigating touch only responding to a need.

Why Do We Use Touch?

We may need to prompt or touch children for a variety of reasons, but in general times we would normally do so for either safety, comfort or personal care: assistance with writing, eating, dressing etc.

How Do We Touch?

Hand-Holding in KS1

At Callow End school in KS1 children sometimes get comfort from holding hands with an adult. This is acceptable when the hand holding is compliant. If the hand hold is being used by an adult as a method of control to move children, this can become a restraint. We do not hold any child’s hand in KS2 unless they are very poorly or had an accident. In these cases, two staff members would be present.

Hugging in KS1

At Callow End School in KS1 children when poorly or sad may need a hug. This would always be a 'school hug'. This is a quick sideways-on hug, with the adult putting their hands on the child's shoulders. This discourages 'front on' hugging and limits the child's ability to turn themselves into you. This can be done standing or sitting. Any child hugging at the front should be discouraged immediately. We do not hug any child in KS2 unless they are very poorly or had an accident. If a 'school hug' is deemed necessary, this should be quick and discouraged. Instead for encouragement we might give a child a pat on the top of the back or a high five.

Kissing

We never kiss a child at Callow End CE Primary School unless it is our own child.

Lap-Sitting

We actively discourage lap-sitting. Children should be taught to seek comfort/attention through other means, for example the school hug or hand-hold. If a child attempts to sit on your lap, explain to them that this is not what we do here and ask them to sit next to you if it is appropriate.

At times if a child is in crisis or distress and has held you by the front the Headteacher or DSL should be informed.

Emergency Situations

Staff have a 'Duty of Care' towards the children in their care at Callow End. Therefore, if a child is likely to be at risk if you do not physically intervene in an emergency situation, you must take action. The action you take will be dependent on the dynamic risk assessment that you make at that moment in time.

Carrying

We do not carry any child unless there has been an accident and the child needs to be immediately lifted to safety or to go to hospital.

Positive Handling

If a child needs any form of restraint/positive handling at Callow End a positive handling hold would be used. The Headteacher would be informed and the incident written down and reported to parents. All children needing to be positively held would have a positive handling plan written which would be signed by the Headteacher and the parent.

Parents/Carers will be made aware of this policy when their child is admitted to this school.

Thrive Touch/Trauma Informed

At Callow End we have a wellbeing TA who works with children needing social and emotional support. If a child is emotional or lacking in confidence our wellbeing practitioner might give a 'school hug' to a child in KS1 or KS2. This touch would only take place in a public space and not in the intervention room.

If you have any questions or would like further discussion regarding this policy please speak to the Headteacher at the earliest opportunity.