

## The Bridge School Permission for Safe Touch



As part of your child's daily routine it may be necessary for staff to use safe touch with your child in line with our Use of Touch Protocol to provide care and comfort or support them physically with educational tasks. Your child may take part in activities which may require a level of physical contact between staff member and child or need medical or intimate care providing. Where this occurs staff members will be those who work closely with your child and that your child feels comfortable with.

Please could you give your consent for staff to use appropriate safe touch with your child for the following activities:

- Sensory Integration – physical support
- Swimming and P.E lessons, including support with dressing/undressing
- Support with communication programs such as signing, Intensive Interaction, PECs and physical prompting/cues
- Support with mobility and guiding between activities and rooms
- Supporting safe behaviour in line with the school's Care and Control Policy
- To give pupils with additional physical needs appropriate physical access to the curriculum. For example, they may be provided with specialist chairs, wedges, standing frames, walkers, slings with overhead tracking, splints etc
- Touch for safety may be needed for example if a pupil overbalances because of a need or accidentally.
- Injury and first aid support
- Medicine administration and the application of creams/emollients to the skin
- Securing belts etc for safe travel
- Intimate care and personal care programs (please also see The Bridge School permission for intimate care)
- Therapies such as Occupational health, Physiotherapy and massage.
- Classroom activities such as Tac Pac and yoga
- For comfort and reward (e.g. a side hug or a high five)
- To apply sun cream sent from home
- Physical prompting and support, gestural and physical prompts during learning activities such as hand-over-hand or hand under hand support and the supporting of movements depending on the needs of the child, so that they experience both fine and gross motor body movements. For example, in art to facilitate initial experiences with a new medium or to encourage/develop multi-sensory exploration/experience of materials
- To support play-based activities that naturally include touch. People of any age who are at early levels of development are likely to be quite tactile and physical.
- Support with feeding, hygiene and self-care and to support independence.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of safe touch please contact your child's class teacher who will happily discuss these with you.

Child's Name.....Class.....

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I do give permission for The Bridge School to provide safe touch in line with the school's policy.

Signed.....Date.....