



**APPLEFORD SCHOOL
PHYSICAL CONTACT POLICY**

(Child-on-Child - Information for pupils)

This Policy applies to the whole school, including boarding

The Policy is publicly available on the school website and upon request a copy (which can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required) may be obtained from the School Office.

We have a whole school approach to safeguarding, which is the golden thread that runs throughout every aspect of the school. All our school policies support our approach to safeguarding (child protection). Our fundamental priority is our children and their wellbeing; this is first and foremost.

All who work, volunteer or supply services to our school have an equal responsibility to understand and implement this policy and its procedures both within and outside of normal school hours including activities away from school. This policy also takes into consideration the National Minimum Standard (NMS) for residential special schools (RSS).

Monitoring and Review: This policy is subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by Dr Peter Gardner (Managing Director), the Advisory Board and Mr David King (Headmaster). The Proprietor will undertake a full annual review of this policy and procedures, inclusive of its implementation and the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged. This discussion will be formally documented in writing. The Proprietor recognises the expertise staff build by undertaking safeguarding training and managing safeguarding concerns. Any deficiencies or weaknesses recognised in arrangements or procedures will be remedied immediately and without delay. All staff will be informed of the update/reviewed policy and it is made available to them in either a hard copy or electronically.

Date reviewed: September 2023

Date of next review: September 2024

Signed:

Dr Peter Gardner
Directing Lead and Proprietor

Mr David King
Headmaster and Company Director

At Appleford, boyfriends / girlfriends are permitted only to hold hands. They should not hug, kiss, or have any other physical contact. We understand that this is a natural part of growing up, however this is a School rule. This position will be supported through PSHE lessons and tutorial support. In the event of any pupil / pupil relationships, the Head of Pastoral Care or the pupil's tutor will inform parents of this relationship, without identifying other specific children. It is the School's view that relationships between post 16 and under 16 pupils are inappropriate. Should such an issue occur, we will contact parents and ask them to support the School in precluding such relationships.

Should any form of perceived inappropriate physical contact be witnessed / reported to a member of staff, the following action will be taken. The staff member will:

- Log it on CPOMS (Central Behaviour Database)
- Report to the relevant Houseparent / Tutor / Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Houseparent / Tutor to discuss with DSL before any action is taken if required
- Parents will be informed.

Sexual Activity: we do not allow sexual activity to take place between pupils. Such activity is illegal under the age of 16, therefore any act that involves more than one pupil is not allowed (including mutual or public masturbation). Any incident will be reported to the DSL to be investigated further. The Local Authority may be involved.

Addendum to Physical Contact Policy No: 7.1: During the period of Covid-19 restrictions and in line with Government guidance/directive, physical contact of any personal nature between pupils is to be proscribed. This includes hugging of a purely friendly nature. Physical contact emanating from sports events / PE lessons **does not** fall within this directive. As advice from the Department for Education/Public Health England changes, the School will adjust this Policy accordingly.