

Rushwick C of E Primary School

Ask, Seek, Knock

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7.

Touch Policy

Last reviewed on: November 2023

Next review due by: Summer 2025

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?

Handholding in EYFS/KSI

At Rushwick School in EYFS and KSI 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 should be present.

Hugging in EYFS/KSI

At Rushwick School in EYFS and KSI children when poorly or sad may need a hug. This should 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 Rushwick 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 Rushwick. 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 Rushwick, a positive handling hold should be used. The Headteacher should be informed and the incident written down and reported to parents. Only members of staff with up-to-date Team Teach training will be able to conduct positive handling. All children needing to be positively held should have a positive handling plan written which should 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.

Trauma Informed Touch

At Rushwick we have trauma informed practitioners who work with children needing social and emotional support. If a child is emotional or lacking in confidence our trauma informed practitioners might give a 'school hug' to a child in EYFS, KSI or KS2. This touch should only take place in a public space and not in the nurture room.

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