

St Marychurch Pre-school

Physical intervention Policy for children with additional needs

Occasionally children with additional needs may need help with a new skill which may involve the adult in 'physical prompting' such as placing an adult hand over a child's hand in order to introduce the PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System), or a child will be supportively picked up and carried to a different area to be introduced to a new activity.

For a child who dislikes physical contact, it has been found useful to use a lap strap when they are sitting in a chair. This acts as a visual and physical prompt, to encourage the child to sit briefly and engage in an activity. Our experiences suggests that the children often find this calming, in the same way that they are often calmed when strapped into a car seat or push chair, and their ability to focus and attend improves. Under no circumstances is the strap used as a restraint or punishment. If a child showed distress at having the strap put on them it would not be used.

Any incidents involving control or restraint will be recorded by the practitioner involved on the 'restraining a child form', discussed with the parent and form placed in the child's file. The incident will also be reported to the LADO.

Signed.....

Position.....

Dated.....

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating, caring, happy Pre-school where all children and their families are welcome. We provide a curriculum based on the Early Years Foundation Stage using individual children's interest and needs.