



## Pupil Hands-Off Policy

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines regarding physical contact among pupils at Orchard Primary School. It aims to promote a safe and respectful environment where all pupils feel secure and valued.

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils, staff, and visitors at Orchard Primary School.

### 3. Policy Statement

Orchard Primary School is committed to fostering an environment where pupils can learn and thrive without fear of physical harm or discomfort. Physical contact should be appropriate, consensual, and respectful.

### 4. Definitions

- **Hands-Off Policy:** A guideline that restricts unnecessary physical contact between pupils.
- **Appropriate Contact:** Physical interactions that are deemed acceptable, such as high-fives, handshakes, or comforting gestures, provided they are consensual

### 5. Guidelines

#### 5.1 Expectations of Pupils

- Pupils are expected to respect personal space and boundaries of their peers.
- Unwanted physical contact, including pushing, hitting, or any form of aggression, is not tolerated.
- Pupils should seek permission before engaging in any physical contact with others.

#### 5.2 Appropriate Situations for Contact

- Physical contact may be appropriate in certain contexts, such as:
- Team sports or activities.
- Comforting a peer who is upset (with their consent).
- Celebratory gestures (e.g., high-fives) in a positive context.

#### 5.3 Staff Responsibilities

- Staff members are responsible for modelling appropriate behaviour and addressing any instances of unwanted contact.
- Staff should intervene promptly if they observe inappropriate physical interactions and remind pupils of the policy.

#### **5.4 Reporting and Consequences**

- Pupils are encouraged to report any incidents of unwanted physical contact to a trusted adult.
- Reports will be taken seriously and investigated promptly.
- Consequences for violating the Hands-Off Policy may include:
- Verbal warning.
- Reflection time.
- Parental involvement.
- Further disciplinary action as per the school's positive behaviour policy.

#### **6. Training and Awareness**

- All staff will receive training on the importance of the Hands-Off Policy and how to implement it effectively.
- Regular awareness sessions will be conducted for pupils to reinforce the policy and its importance through whole school assemblies and PSHE sessions.

#### **7. Review and Evaluation**

- This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.
- Feedback from pupils, staff, and parents will be considered during the review process.

#### **8. Communication**

- The policy will be communicated to all pupils, staff, and parents through the school website, newsletters, and meetings.