

Appropriate Conduct when working 1-2-1 With Children and Young People Policy

This policy has been reviewed and Covid-19 restrictions amended taking into account eased restrictions.

Physical Contact

The practitioner will:

Not initiate any physical contact when alone with any child or young person.

Not enter into physical expressions of emotion such as kissing or hugging (e.g. in a situation where a child might be upset, do not respond by giving a hug).

Not enter into intrusive forms of play (e.g. tickling or rough and tumble play).

The child's sessions **must** only take place in the room made available by the school.

No practitioner is allowed to take any child off school premises.

Coronavirus update: All practitioners will carry with them a face mask to wear when appropriate. Individual primary schools may request that practitioners wear a face mask in communal areas. Antiseptic spray / wipes will be used to clean all areas before sessions can take place. This will be repeated at the end of a session.

It will be asked that a school staff member brings the child to the room in which sessions take place and the staff member will also check if the child needs to use the toilet before the session begins.

At the start of every session the practitioner will let the child know which areas of the room (eg., table/chairs) can be used. The practitioner can return the child to his or her classroom at the end of each session but with **no** physical contact being made with the child, for example holding hands.

If physical contact is offered from a child (e.g. a child may throw their arms around the practitioner or attempt to sit on the practitioners lap), cease this physical contact immediately by explaining to the child, in a way appropriate to the child's level of understanding, so as not to cause the child to feel rejected, this is not allowed whilst they are with the practitioner. If a child continues to persist with inappropriate contact, the practitioner shall withdraw from working one-to-one with the child so as not to put the practitioner in a position of risk. The practitioner shall talk this through with one of the Designated Safeguarding Officer's for T4C, who shall give support and mentoring as the practitioner may find the situation upsetting or unsettling.

Specific behaviours such as creating secretive relationships (social media/phone number/email/giving address to child) or attempting to meet a child out of his or her session is **NOT** allowed. Specific behaviours such as secretive relationships with the service user's parents/carers is **NOT** allowed. Refer to Policy for Code of Behaviour.

Under no circumstance can any practitioner, whether working as a volunteer or paid worker, take a photograph of any child either by digital camera or by any other electronic means such as a mobile phone. Mobile phones must be left in practitioner's car. Under no circumstance is the child to be photographed.

Physical Restraint

Practitioners are trained to inform children of physical boundaries in order to reduce risk of injury to children. **Under no circumstance** shall a practitioner attempt to physically restrain any child or young person. If there is a need for a child or young person to be physically restrained in order to prevent the child from hurting themselves, or to prevent serious damage to any property or the practitioner, the practitioner shall tell the child calmly that they are going to get appropriate help and close the session. In the event of a child or young person presenting as a serious risk of harming themselves, immediate assistance must be sought.

If any child poses too high a physical risk, the child's session will be closed and/or support will be withdrawn.

Where a child could be (or is) physically or verbally abusive to a practitioner, support for that child will be withdrawn.