

Kings Norton Team Parish Guidelines – physical contact

- Any physical contact should only take place in public.
- Physical contact should reflect the child's needs, not the adult's. As adults, we should check what is motivating us to reach out physically to a youngster. Do we need this contact for our own comfort/reassurance?
- Any physical contact should be age-appropriate, and initiated by the child rather than the adult.
- Remember that it is children who have the right to decide how much physical contact they have with others, except in exceptional circumstances where they need medical attention.
- Any physical activity which is, or may be thought to be, sexually stimulating to the adult or the child should be avoided.
- In offering physical contact, it is not appropriate to hold the youngster face to face. An arm around the shoulder when the youngster is alongside the adult is more appropriate.
- It is appropriate for helpers to monitor one another in the area of physical contact. Helpers should be free to help each other by pointing out anything which could be misunderstood.

If anyone persists in inappropriate touch with a young person, this must be challenged. If there are concerns about an adult's contact with a young person, advice must be sought, without delay, from the incumbent and/or the Parish Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator and/or the Bishop's Safeguarding Children Adviser.

- Any guidelines on physical contact should be discussed with parents/carers and confirmed in writing with them. The wishes of parents/ carers in relation to physical contact should always be respected and adhered to.