

Policy Guidance on Addressing Student’s Sensory Issues

A specialist provision for young people with autism, where they can develop their skills in an environment that values them for who they are, with no limits on their aspirations.

Approved by	Rachel Thompson	Date: February 2023
Policy reviewed	November 2024	
Date for next review	November 2025	

Purpose

At Queensmill College we understand that our young people have a range of sensory issues which may impact on their learning and participation. Our aim is to support students to achieve and maintain a calm-alert state, enabling them to engage with and achieve their potential in a range of college activities.

Use of Sensory Equipment

Students at Queensmill College have access to a range of equipment to meet their sensory needs within the classrooms and around the college. In order to ensure that the equipment is used appropriately all staff are advised to:

- Read relevant risk assessments and guidelines before using equipment;
- Check equipment for wear/tear and cleanliness prior to use;

Physical Touch

Many of our young people seek out positive touch. This can be in the form of hand holding, a reassuring hug, a deep pressure squeeze or massage. All positive touch should be student led and meet the needs of the young person at that time (i.e. to calm them, provide sensory feedback or help them to feel secure). Staff should use their professional judgement as to the needs of the young person and what touch is appropriate with consideration of SoSafe principles. Deep pressure techniques such as massage can prove highly effective in calming our young people. We need to be aware of the appropriateness of this on a number of levels.

- Only adults who know the student well should engage in physical touch techniques;
- When using massage and deep pressure only the student’s legs, arms, feet, hands and shoulders, back and head should be touched;
- Staff at Queensmill College should use their knowledge of the young person to assess whether massage or deep pressure is appropriate,
- Written consent should be obtained from parents prior to use of creams or oils during massage;
- Stomach massage should be undertaken only by staff members who have accredited training in this type of massage and with written consent from parents.
