

POSITIVE HANDLING AND INTERVENTION POLICY

OVERVIEW:

At all times members of staff at this school are in loco parentis and they must therefore act in the same manner that a good parent might to ensure the care and safety of all. This policy should be used in association with other key policies. It outlines how members of staff are to apply the use of restrictive physical interventions in supplement to the behaviour policy. Both policies should be read in conjunction with the school SEN policy, the Health & Safety policy, and the Child Protection policy.

INTENT

1. The Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring that staff, Governors and parents are aware of the policy.
2. The headteacher will ensure that any necessary training/awareness-raising takes place so that members of staff know their responsibilities
3. To ensure that staff understand that in some circumstances appropriate physical contact is a perfectly normal part of their normal relationship with pupils e.g. to offer comfort when a pupil is distressed or to give them reassurance or to support in PE
4. To make staff aware of the sensitivities associated with any form of physical contact with students and for that reason physical contact should be avoided whenever possible
5. Physical contact must never be abusive, with intention to cause pain or injury and staff must always take account of gender issues and sensitivities
6. To ensure that the use of restrictive physical intervention is the outcome of a professional judgement made by staff on the basis of school policy

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Restrictive physical intervention will only be considered when other behaviour management options have proved ineffective or are judged to be inappropriate or in an emergency situation.
2. Before intervening in this way, staff will weigh up whether the risk of not intervening is greater than the risk of intervening.
3. Any actions will be carried out with pupils' best interests at heart.
4. Physical intervention will never be used to punish a pupil or cause pain, injury or humiliation.
5. Staff must not place themselves at unreasonable risk. In such circumstances, they must take steps to minimise risks for example, by calling for assistance.
6. Parents and volunteers in the school are not given authorisation to use restrictive physical intervention.
7. When a restrictive physical intervention is justified, staff will use 'reasonable force' 'warranted by the situation'.
8. 'Reasonable force' must 'be proportionate to the circumstances' of the incident and the consequences it is intended to prevent'.
9. Any force used will always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result and for the shortest amount of time.
10. During an incident the member of staff involved will tell the pupil that his or her behaviour may be leading to restraint.
11. After the use of an unplanned restrictive physical intervention the details of the incident will be reported to the headteacher on the same day and a written record of the incident will be kept
12. Parents/carers will be informed by the Headteacher/SENCO on the day of the incident.

IMPACT

The positive ethos, good behaviour and good relationships in this school mean that restrictive physical intervention will rarely be needed. This policy will ensure that in those rare circumstances the care and wellbeing of all pupils will be paramount.