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Lanesend Primary School

Positive Handling Policy Statutory Policy

Signed: Date:
(Headteacher)

Signed: Date:
(Chair of Governors)

Review Date: November 2019 (Yearly)

Reviewed By: Inclusion Officer and Child-Centred Group

Lanesend Primary Positive Handling Policy

What is Positive Handling?

Positive Handling can be known as physical intervention and is the positive application of force for the purpose of overcoming a child's resistance.

When is Positive Handling used?

Positive Handling will only be used under the following circumstances:

- **When preventing physical harm or threatened harm to self and others**
- **Preventing a child from running away or escaping**
- **Preventing damage to property**
- **Removing a child from the classroom if causing disruption and distress to the other children**

Positive Handling is used as a last resort after all other steps have been exhausted, using strategies laid out in the schools behaviour policy.

Types of Positive Handling used

There are two types of Positive Handling.

1. Non-Restrictive Handling

Non-restrictive handling is concerned with assisting a child to walk away from a situation with the use of guiding. Guiding involves placing a hand on the child's arm or back to gently guide a child away from the situation.

2. Restrictive Handling

Restrictive handling is the use of physical contact to remove or control a child's behaviour if there is a real risk of harm to themselves, peers, adults or property.

Training

School training has been completed with regards to the use of 'Positive Handling' in school to ensure that any physical intervention used is done so in the correct manner. 'Positive Handling' will only be used by staff that have received appropriate training.

Volunteers, visitors and untrained staff are not permitted to use 'Positive Handling' techniques. If staff have not been trained in positive handling and need to use reasonable force, this is permitted under Government guidelines.

Recording

Families will be informed immediately after the event and invited in to discuss the incident and any sanctions will be discussed following the schools behaviour policy. A de-briefing will be held with the child immediately after and the child will be checked for any injuries sustained and this will be recorded in the Positive Handling Record Book. All adults will be debriefed and checked for injuries all of which will be recorded in the Positive Handling Record Book.

The Positive Handling Record Book will be held in the Inclusion Office in the Key Stage 2 area. This **must** be completed fully and signed by reporting member of staff and Head Teacher or Deputy Head. The Inclusion Team will copy report and place a copy in child's file held in the Inclusion Team's Office.

Reasonable Force

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force.

This power applies to any member of staff at the school. It can also apply to people whom the Headteacher has temporarily put in charge of children such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying children on a school organised visit.

When can reasonable force be used?

Reasonable force can be used to prevent children from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.

In a school, force is used for two main purposes – to control children or to restrain them.

The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

Schools can use reasonable force to:

- remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so
- prevent a child behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit
- prevent a child leaving the classroom where allowing the child to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others
- prevent a child from attacking a member of staff or another child, or to stop a fight in the playground

- restrain a child at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

In our school, **all** members of staff when confronted with a situation, are advised to approach it as they would with their own child. However, any use of reasonable force or positive handling must be recorded and the same procedures followed.

Please see our Behaviour Policy for further information.