

Live, Learn and grow together



Sundon Park Junior School Positive Handling Policy

At Sundon Park Junior School there are children whose specific learning difficulties, social or emotional difficulties mean that they can present behaviour that may occasionally necessitate the use of restrictive physical interventions to prevent injury, damage to property, or a serious breakdown of discipline. All staff must be aware that use of physical force must be reasonable, proportionate, and necessary, in the best interest of the child and comply with:

- Advice from the Department for Education on Use of Reasonable Force, Advice for Head teachers, staff and governing bodies (2013)

Staff will attend training and it is an expectation that any physical intervention, where possible, will be in accordance with this training.

Staff may use physical intervention only if they have attended the relevant training and been signed off by the Lead Trainer for the training session they attended.

However, as Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 states that all members of staff have the power to use “reasonable force”, **there are occasions when, in order to fulfil our duty of care, we not only have a right but also a duty to intervene.**

On occasion, staff may find themselves in unforeseen or emergency situations when they have no option but to use reasonable force to manage a crisis. It is recommended that:

- before handling a child - staff attempt to use diversion or de-fusion to manage the situation
- when using positive handling - staff must use techniques and methods for which they have been trained.
- in exceptional circumstances (where permitted techniques are ineffective or staff are unfamiliar with the action they should take) – staff manage the situation as best they can and act ‘in loco parentis’.
- An additional member of staff takes notes throughout the incident.

Staff must report and record the use of positive handling on a ‘Use of force to control or restrain pupils incident record’, on the day the incident takes place.

There are a wide variety of situations in which reasonable force might be reasonable, proportionate and necessary, to control or restrain a pupil. They will fall into three broad categories:

- a. where there is a risk of injury to themselves or others;
- b. where there is a risk of significant damage to property;
- c. where a pupil is behaving in a way that is compromising good order and discipline.

Training techniques seek to avoid injury to all parties involved, but it is possible that bruising or scratching may occur accidentally, and these are not to be seen necessarily as a failure of professional technique, but a regrettable and infrequent “side-effect” of ensuring that the pupil remains safe.

Unacceptable Techniques

Certain restraint techniques present an unacceptable risk when used on children and young people. The techniques in question are:

- the ‘seated double embrace’ which involves two members of staff forcing a person into a sitting position and leaning them forward, while a third monitors breathing;
- the ‘double basket-hold’ which involves holding a person’s arms across their chest; and
- the ‘nose distraction technique’ which involves a sharp upward jab under the nose.

Post-incident support

Incidents that require use of restrictive physical interventions can be upsetting to all concerned and may result in injuries to the child or member of staff. Following any incident, it is important to ensure that staff and children are given emotional support and basic first aid treatment for any injuries. Immediate action should be taken to ensure that medical help is accessed for any injuries that require other than basic first aid. All injuries should be reported and recorded in accordance with school procedures.

A member of the Leadership Team must be alerted as soon as possible that a situation involving physical intervention is taking or has taken place. Appropriate support based on the severity of the incident will be provided for staff and children after the incident. The Leadership Team member will ensure that all correct procedures are followed. These procedures must include:

- Notification of parent or guardian that the incident has taken place
- First aid as appropriate
- Checking that all parties have recovered sufficiently before resuming their normal responsibilities.
- Completion of a ‘Use of force to control or restrain pupils incident record’

Reporting and recording the use of Positive Handling

All incidents involving positive handling must be recorded, on the same day, on the appropriate form.

The record must include:

- the name(s) of the pupil(s) involved, and when and where the incident took place;
- the names of any other staff or pupils who witnessed the incident;
- the reason that force was necessary (e.g. to prevent injury to the pupil, another pupil or member of staff);
- how the incident began and progressed, including details of the pupil's behaviour, what was said by each of the parties, the steps taken to defuse or calm the situation, the degree of force used, how that was applied, and for how long;
- the pupil's response, and the outcome of the incident;
- details of any injury suffered by the pupil, another pupil, or a member of staff and of any damage to property.

The Governing Body reviews this policy as necessary or when recommended to do so by LBC

Agreed by Governors on 13th April 2016

Signed by Chair of Governors:

Next review date: As required