



Mevagissey C P SCHOOL

Safe Handling Policy

Date: February 2018

Review Date: February 2020

At Mevagissey School we are committed to safeguarding children. The health, safety and emotional well-being of every child are our paramount concern. Our aim is that children will thrive during their time with us in a safe and happy environment.

The Staff and Governors are committed to providing a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment for the children in our care, promoting the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

This policy relates to the 'staying safe' Every Child Matters outcome and gives guidance on how to monitor and evaluate our own use of restrictive physical interventions (positive handling) so that practice is consistent and safe.

- Where physical intervention is a likelihood, a plan should be devised and recorded on a child's learning passport.
- Physical intervention should be a last resort and only undertaken when all other means of gaining order have failed.
- Staff should not place themselves at risk of being the subject of a false allegation. To minimise risk avoid being alone with any child / young person if possible.
- This policy relates to other policies: Child Protection, Behaviour and Safeguarding

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and DCSF Guidance 11/07 Section 10 enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- Committing a criminal offence (or for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil);
- Causing personal injury to or damage to property of any person (including the pupil themselves); or
- Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Safe Handling Principles

The principles of safe handling are based on twin assumptions:

- A situation is about to exist in which people or property will be in serious danger of assault, injury or damage;
- All efforts to avoid the need for physical intervention have been taken.

The physical restraint of a child / young person must be considered as a **last resort** attempt to cope with the particular situation.

Any physical intervention involves a degree of risk: the assessment of the level of risk is a calculation that must be made before deciding to intervene. Think clearly and carefully before acting.

Methods



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Any physical intervention employed must involve the minimum force necessary for the minimum amount of time and must meet the following criteria:

- Handling must not involve deliberately or inadvertently striking the child / young person;
- Handling must not involve 'punitive' acts; ie deliberately inflicting pain on the child / young person (for example, cannot involve joint locks or finger holds);
- Handling must not restrict the child / young person's breathing (for example, must not involve throat or neck holds or pressing the child / young person's face into soft furnishings);
- An adult must avoid touching the genital area, the buttocks or the breasts of the child / young person;
- Handling must avoid the adult putting weight upon the child / young person's head, spine or abdominal area.

Recording Events and Actions

We ensure that any such of restraint are logged by the member(s) of staff involved as soon as possible after the event.

Witness Statements

Immediately after the incident has been resolved, the headteacher/ or senior member of staff should be verbally appraised of the situation.

ALL STAFF KNOW THE SCHOOL POLICY ON THE USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT.

Tracey Gilbert and Victoria Ball are the designated staff who have been trained in Team Teach Methods.

Dealing with Complaints

Any complaint arising from the use of physical restraint must be fully considered in light of existing routes of investigation; ie:

- Statutory routes which must include child protection (Social Care);
- Other routes including disciplinary procedures (Personnel);
- BeeLine, Share Advocacy, Childline etc.