



Positive Handling Procedures

Physical touch:

Given the age and development stages of the children in our school, there will be times when children need comforting. This can be achieved by a sideways hug or hand on the shoulder and should be done in the knowledge of and preferably in the presence of other staff. Staff should avoid being alone with the child.

Staff are always expected to exercise good care and control. Where ever possible confrontation will be avoided by engaging the following strategies:

Staff will:

Intervene early
Appear calm and confident
Get close to the child and talk quietly
Avoid an audience
Restate expectations clearly
Offer choices
Allow time and space
Get someone else to take over if they feel that the situation is beyond what they can manage

They will not:

Shout
Appear angry
Ask open questions
Make promises they cannot fulfil
Make personal comments
'Back the child into a corner'

Physical intervention

In exceptional circumstances physical intervention may be necessary to prevent serious injury occurring to a child, another person or damage to property.

The education act allows teachers to use **reasonable force** to control or restrain a child when needed. Whenever it is possible to do so, a member of staff who is trained in positive handling will be called upon to use physical intervention, however all staff have a duty of care to protect and safeguard children so may need to restrain pupils if necessary.

Physical Intervention may only be undertaken after consultation and in the presence of another adult. However, in extreme situations staff may intervene to prevent a child from injuring themselves and others, or to prevent serious damage to property.

If, as a school, we are aware that a child is likely to behave in such a way that may require physical control or restraint, a behaviour management plan will be prepared. This should address the following:

- Strategies to be employed to avoid physical intervention
- Where necessary the form of physical intervention that will need to be employed:

- blocking a child's path
- physically interposing between children
- shepherding a child away by placing a hand in the centre of the back
- leading by the hand or arm
- escape techniques from bites/ hair pulling
- holding techniques to make safe
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- Parental involvement in order to ensure that they are clear about the specific action the school might need to take
- Staff involvement (what action may be needed, including any necessary training)
- Additional immediate support mechanisms.

Staff should always consider that there are:

- alternatives to force
- the purpose of intervention is to restore safety
- that only minimum force is to be employed
- that physical restraint should only be used when it is likely to succeed
- that restraint should not continue longer than necessary

Where physical intervention is necessary then staff must ensure that:

Another adult is present to record what is happening and why

The incident is logged and reported to the Head teacher

Parents should be informed