

## 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. Wherever 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

### Staff will not:

- Shout
- Appear angry
- Ask leading 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 significant 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 alone to prevent a child from injuring themselves and others, or to prevent significant damage to property.

All staff are aware, and have had training to ensure that the need for physical intervention is a last resort. De-escalation techniques should always be used first. If physical intervention is used, staff are aware that:

- 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

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, an individual handling plan, individual risk assessment and behaviour support plan, will be written and parents made aware. This should address the following:

- Strategies to be employed to avoid physical intervention
- Behaviours displayed by the child, their frequency and risk
- The physical intervention techniques most appropriate for that child
- Key staff to support during any physical intervention

Following the need for physical intervention, all staff involved will record their individual involvement and attend a debrief meeting. All incidents will be logged on school systems.