

## West Meadows Primary School.

### Positive Handling Policy

This policy has been prepared for the support of all staff to explain the schools' arrangements for care and control of all pupils. This policy is available to parents either from the school office or the schools' web site.

#### Purpose.

This policy aims to give all members of the school community clear guidance so that any physical intervention that they undertake is carried out in a way that supports and ensures the well being and safety of all pupils.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 stipulates that reasonable force may be used to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do any of the following:

- Self injury
- Causing injury to others
- Committing a criminal offence
- Engaging in behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline in school-in lessons, at break time or in after school activities

#### Risk

The use of a restrictive intervention will be the outcome of a professional judgement made by staff on the basis of this school policy. It is avoided wherever possible and will not be used for staff convenience.

**Restrictive physical intervention will only be considered if other behaviour management options have proved ineffective or are judged to be inappropriate[or in an emergency situation].**

Before deciding to intervene in this way staff will weigh up whether the risk of not intervening is greater than the risk of intervening. Any actions will be carried out with the best interests of the child at heart. Physical intervention will never be used to punish a child.

Staff are not expected to place themselves at unreasonable risk and must take steps to minimise risks at all times. They must always call for assistance and remove other pupils from the situation.

### **Intervention**

When a physical intervention is justified, staff will use 'reasonable force'. It will be proportionate to the circumstances of the incident and the consequences it is intended to prevent. Any force used will always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result and for the shortest amount of time.

During an incident the member of staff will always tell the pupil that his or her behaviour may be leading to restraint. This will not be used as a threat or in any way that could inflame the situation. Staff will try to adopt a calm measured approach and maintain communication with the pupil at all times.

If, through SEN assessment, it is determined that a restrictive physical intervention is likely to be appropriate to enable a pupil to make progress, a risk assessment will be carried out.

If appropriate an individual positive handling plan will then be drawn up for that pupil. The plan will be discussed with parents and carers and will be reviewed with the pupil's IEP every term.

### **Training**

Before any risk assessment/positive handling plan is implemented any necessary training or guidance will be provided for the staff involved. The Head teacher is responsible for establishing staff needs and for organising necessary training.

### **What to do after the use of a restrictive physical intervention.**

- Details of the incident will be recorded immediately by all adults involved on the positive handling incident report
- Staff will be offered the opportunity to seek advice and support from a senior colleague
- Any injuries suffered will be recorded following normal school procedures

- The Head teacher will check that there is no cause for concern regarding the actions of adults involved.
- Parents and carers will be informed by the Head teacher or SENCO on the day of the incident
- Support de briefing will be available for adults and pupils involved in any incident involving restrictive physical interventions.

### **Complaints Procedure**

Any complaint will be considered in the light of the school's child protection procedures.

Appendix A-Trained Staff

Appendix B-Risk Assessment

Appendix C-Positive Handling Plan

Appendix D-Intervention Report