



Ashby Hill Top Primary School

Positive Handling Policy

Review Date: February 2019

Safeguarding Governor: Carole Ambrose

Physical Intervention

It is recognised that in specific circumstances of serious threat to pupils, staff or property, it is necessary to use techniques that may involve some physical restraint in order to ensure the health and safety of all. We follow the guidelines and protocols for physical restraint of Leicestershire County Council.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our school Behaviour Policy.

Staff Training

A number of staff who have been trained to an appropriate level are sanctioned to use restrictive physical interventions. However, in an emergency the use of physical intervention by other people can be justified if it is the only way to prevent injury or to prevent an offence being committed. The use of physical intervention should be reasonable and proportionate and, could be expected to reflect the person's previous training in the appropriate use of Positive Handling Strategies.

A register of trained staff and staff authorized to apply Positive Handling techniques is held in the school office with certificates.

Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention

Staff may use, in relation to any pupil at the school, such force as is reasonable in the circumstances for the purpose of preventing the pupil from doing (or continuing to do) any of the following:

- i. Committing a criminal offence (including behaving in a way that would be an offence if the student were not under the age of criminal responsibility)
- ii. Causing personal injury to or damage to the property of any person (including the pupil her/himself).
- iii. Engaging in any behaviour that may cause serious harm or injury to staff, teachers or other people on the school site (including the pupil her/himself)

It applies where a member of staff of the school is:

- i. On the premises of the school.
- ii. Elsewhere at the time when as a member of its staff, they have lawful control or charge of the pupil concerned (e.g. school trip).

Ref: 1098, Section 550A, 1996 Education Act

Recording

Incidents where physical interventions have been used should be reported to S.Garner (Head teacher) or Juliet McAuliffe or Nicola Middleton (Assistant Head teacher) in his absence, via the record and reporting system. An account of the incident and the Physical Intervention bound and numbered book should be completed within 24 hours after the incident and a copy of the report and numbered book is to be held with the Headteacher. It is recommended that staff seek advice from a senior colleague or a representation of their professional association when completing the report, where it was a complicated situation, or if a child is inadvertently hurt in the restraint. The reports and physical interviews record will be reviewed termly formally by the Headteacher and a report fed back to the Safeguarding Committee/governing body and the SLT. Regular liaison takes place between the, SENco and Headteacher.

In addition following a physical intervention a serious incident form (appendix 1) should be completed for the pupil involved. If the pupil already has a **Positive Handling Plan** then the plan will be reviewed. All pupils who display consistent serious behaviours will have a risk assessment and physical intervention plan. Parents will be part of this process at all times.

Injury to staff

Some staff are trained in supporting pupils who at some time may need positive handling interventions. If a member of staff is injured by a pupil they must complete the serious incident form. These forms are monitored by the HT and serious injury reported electronically to the Local Authority.

Post Incident Management

Incidents that require the use of restrictive physical intervention can be upsetting to all concerned. After the incident has subsided the staff and pupil involved will be given welfare support. They will be provided with an opportunity to talk about what happened in a calm and safe environment, usually by the SENCO or Headteacher. A Welfare Record is kept on file.

Parents or carers will be advised as soon as possible of the incident involving their child and given the opportunity to discuss it. A Record is kept of all talks with parents.

Complaints

Complaints will be dealt with by a committee of the Governing Body. The use of restrictive physical interventions must always be considered within the wider context of other measures. These include establishing and maintaining relationships with pupils and using diversion, diffusion and negotiation to respond to difficult situations. Under no circumstances should food or drink be restricted. When a child is placed into time out in accordance with their flow chart, their basic human needs are paramount. Use of a physical intervention that is unwarranted, excessive or punitive is not acceptable. Failure to comply with this principle, when considering or using physical force, should be dealt with under the schools disciplinary procedures.

Statutory Duty of the School

S.Garner the Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, Parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are supported and have the opportunity to attend an appropriate training course including Positive Handling Strategies.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Actions following incident / outcome/ parental involvement/sanctions (including exclusion)

Further Notes: