
Positive Handling

Ardleigh Green
Junior School

September 2017



Policy on the use of positive handling to control or restrain pupils

The ethos of the school is that control of pupils is based upon good professional relationships between the staff and pupils.

The aim of the policy is to ensure that staff are clear as to who can use reasonable force on a pupil and when this is appropriate. Reasonable force should only be used as a last resort and in the circumstances as detailed below.

This policy is based on section 93 of the Education and Inspectors Act 2006, Equality Act and Guidance 2010 and Education Act 2011 and 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 any 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 the property of any person (including the pupil him/herself); or
- Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

The Act does not authorise the use of corporate punishment in any circumstances.

All teachers in conjunction with support staff at the school are authorised to use reasonable force when it is necessary.

Reasonable force would need to be in proportion to the consequences it is intended to prevent. The degree of force used should be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result. Reasonable force may be used in exercising statutory power, introduced under section 45 of the Violent and Criminal Reduction Act 2006 and Education Act 2011 to search pupils without their consent for weapons.

Not treat a disabled pupil less favourably, for a reason relating to their disability, than someone to whom that reason does not apply, without justification; and
Take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage to pupils who are not disabled (known as the reasonable adjustments duty).

Physical interventions should only be used when dialogue and diversion have failed to stop the behaviour and should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result, taking into account the age and size of the child.

The decision to use a restrictive physical intervention must take into account the immediate circumstances of the situation, coupled with prior knowledge of the child and be based upon an assessment of the risks associated with the intervention.



We may consider it necessary to use reasonable force where:

- Action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury
- There is a developing risk of injury or significant damage to property
- A pupil is behaving in a way that is compromising good order and discipline
- Reasonable force should only be used when another adult is present

All attempts to avoid using reasonable force should initially be employed by attempting to de-escalate the incident. Reasonable force should only be used when the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved in not using reasonable force. All uses of reasonable force should be recorded on the school's 'use of positive handling record sheet' (see attached). At Ardleigh Green Junior School teaching staff and teaching assistants only will use reasonable force as a last resort to comply with the duty of care for pupils.

Review Date – October 2018



Use of Positive Handling Record

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| Name of Pupil: | | |
| Date: | Time: | Location: |
| Name of member of staff involved: | | |
| Name of Witness: | | |
| Details of any other pupils involved: | | |
| Reason for using positive force and description of force: | | |
| Any injuries suffered by staff of pupils including any medical attention needed: | | |
| Follow up, including post incident support and any disciplinary action against the pupils: | | |
| Any information shared with staff not involved in it and external agencies: | | |
| When and how those with parental responsibility were informed about the incident and any views they have expressed: | | |
| Has any complaint been logged? | | |
| Report compiled by: | | |
| Role: | | |
| Signature: | | |