



# Positive Handling Policy

2018

Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
26/09/18	Shane Dervan	Josephine Namusisi-Riley

## **Introduction**

This policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils who may need to be positively handled. This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies relating to interaction between adults and pupils specifically the school's Behaviour Policy. The policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Governing Body.

The application of any form of positive handling places staff and children in a vulnerable situation. Staff, therefore, have a responsibility to follow the policy and to seek alternative strategies wherever possible in order to prevent the need for positive handling.

Corpus Christi School and its governing body acknowledges that a 'no-touch' policy is unlawful.

**Positive Handling will only be used as a last resort when all other behaviour management strategies have failed or when pupils, staff or property are at risk.**

## **Definitions**

(a) Physical Contact: Situations in which proper physical contact takes place between staff and pupils, e.g. in sports/PE or to comfort pupils.

(b) Physical Intervention: This may be used to divert a pupil from a destructive or disruptive action, for example guiding or leading a pupil by the hand, arm or shoulder with little or no force.

(c) Positive Handling: This will involve the use of reasonable force when there is a risk.

## **Underpinning Values**

Everyone attending or working at Corpus Christi Primary School has the right to:

- a recognition of their unique identity
- be treated with respect and dignity
- learn and work in a safe environment
- be protected from harm.

Pupils attending this school and their parents have a right to:

- individual consideration of pupils needs by staff that has responsibility for their care and protection
- expect staff to undertake duties and responsibilities in accordance with the school's policies
- be informed about school rules, relevant policies and the expected conduct of all pupils and staff working in the school
- be informed about the school's complaint procedure

The school will ensure that all pupils understand the need for and respond to clearly defined limits which govern behaviour in the school.

Parents should have committed themselves through the Home-School Agreement to ensure the good behaviour of their child and that the child understands and follows the School's Behaviour Policy.

## **Training**

Positive Handling training will be made available to designated staff and will be the responsibility of the Head teacher. No member of staff will be expected to undertake positive handling without appropriate training. Prior to the provision of training, guidance will be given on action to be taken.

Staff should have

## **Strategies for Dealing with Challenging Behaviour**

All challenging behaviour will be addressed using the guidelines set out in the behaviour policy.

Children identified as having PSED needs will have a Positive Handling Action Plan/Risk Assessment completed in conjunction with the school SEND Co-ordinator.

In 1:1 staffing situations staff members will be rotated in order to share the risk.

## **Escalating Situations**

The 1996 Education Act (Section 550A) stipulates that reasonable physical intervention may be used to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do any of the following;

- ✓ engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils; whether the behaviour occurs in a classroom, during a teaching session or elsewhere (this includes authorised out-of-school activities)
- ✓ self-injuring or placing himself or herself at risk
- ✓ injuring others
- ✓ causing damage to property, including that of the pupil himself or herself
- ✓ committing a criminal offence (even if the pupil is below the age of criminal responsibility)

Should an incident require intervention then staff will use the minimum degree of contact to prevent a child harming him or herself, others or property. The form of physical intervention may involve staff doing the following:

- physically interposing themselves between pupils
- blocking a pupil's path
- escorting a pupil
- shepherding a pupil away

Staff members, and particularly those working with young children or those with Positive Handling Plans, should consider their attire and fingernail length in order not to inadvertently cause injury. This should be referenced in the schools dress code.

*Wherever possible, assistance will be sought from another member of staff before intervention.*

## **Recording**

Where positive handling has been used a record of the incident always needs to be kept. All recording needs to be completed on the day of incident and needs to include the following:

- ✓ name of pupil
- ✓ date, time and place of incident
- ✓ a brief description of the incident and actions taken
- ✓ attempts made to calm the situation
- ✓ names of people who witnessed the situation
- ✓ any damage/harm to persons or property
- ✓ name of person informing parents
- ✓ after investigation a summary of action taken

Staff completing recording forms will keep a copy for themselves for future reference. After the review of any incident, a copy of the recording form will be placed on the pupil's file.

## **Action after an Incident**

The Headteacher will ensure that each incident is reviewed and investigated further as required. If further action is required in relation to a member of staff or a pupil, this will be pursued through the appropriate procedure:

- Child Protection Procedure
- Staff Facing Allegations of Abuse Procedure
- Staff or Pupil Disciplinary Procedure
- School Behaviour Policy
- Exclusions Procedure

Members of staff will be kept informed of any action taken.

## **Complaints**

Any complaints about staff will be dealt with under the school's Complaints about Staff Procedure Policy.