



Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School

Physical Intervention Policy

Last Review: Spring 2021

Signed Chair of Governors

Date: Jan 2022

Signed Head teacher

Date: Jan 2022

Aims

At Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School we believe a positive environment with effective behaviour management strategies in place, is the best learning situation for all children. However, there are times, when for the safety of staff and pupils, physical intervention needs to occur. Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort to ensure the safety of all. The decision to physically intervene, or not, is a professional judgment based on an ongoing risk assessment. It is about using techniques and positioning to support a child rather than strength.

What is reasonable force?

The 1997 Education Act allows authorized staff (adults with responsibility for a group of children) to use reasonable force to prevent a pupil:

- Committing a criminal offence
- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property
- Causing major disruption to the teaching and learning

The force used is regarded as reasonable if ...

- The circumstances of the particular incident warrant it.
- The degree of force is proportional to the circumstances of the incident, depending upon the age, understanding and gender of the child.

Plans

Physical Intervention is not a routinely used behaviour management approach. It may be used in the event of an emergency, with a pupil for whom there is not a plan to do so, only in the event that no other strategy is available and there is no alternative to keeping the child or other children safe from risk of harm.

Otherwise physical intervention will only be used if it has been previously agreed with the parents, and where appropriate the child, This would normally be part of a Behaviour Support Plan and will include the named staff who are trained in Positive Handling and who only be used to carry out this behavior management measure.

Procedures

- Initially, where possible, other behaviour management strategies will be used with the pupils; such as speaking calmly, being provided with options, reminder of the rules, seeking the support of an adult who gets on well with the child to talk to them and giving the child an option of a safe place to calm down. Positive handling will only ever be used as a last resort, even when a plan already exists that identifies it as a possible strategy.
- At least one other member of staff will be informed at the start of the incident.
- Only trained members of staff will use the positive handling techniques to hold a child.
- For the duration of the hold, staff will continue to communicate with the pupil in a calm manner.
- If it is safe to do so staff will try and move the child away from an area where they may cause a risk to others and also into an area where they can calm down and it is discrete as possible depending on the individual circumstances of the child and incident.

- After an appropriate time, maybe even the next day, the child will be supported to reflect on and explore what happened and to restore relationships with the staff and children involved.
- All incidents of positive handling should be recorded on the school log and parents/carers informed about the incident.
- If a child requires positive handling then, if it is not already the case, they will have an Individual Behaviour Plan established to support staff and the child and their family in recognising what their triggers might be, how to deescalate, how they like staff to interact with them, and if it becomes necessary what holds they find more reassuring or supportive.

H&S

Staff who provide positive handling support will always receive training to be able to carry out the techniques safely and accurately.

Training will be renewed at least every three years. When a child has positive handling named as part of their Behaviour Improvement Plan, the named adults who will carry out the strategy will practice their technique at least every half term to ensure they are confident in their role.

Staff who are positive handling trained to have an injury or illness that could impair their ability to carry out the role or it could cause them further injury or discomfort will alert the SLT and no longer be required to be part of a child's plan of support.

Following any episode of physical handling, all staff involved will review the event and engage in follow up training or planning to ensure continued safe and appropriate care. Staff will have access to supervision funded by school if they have experienced trauma from a positive handling episode.