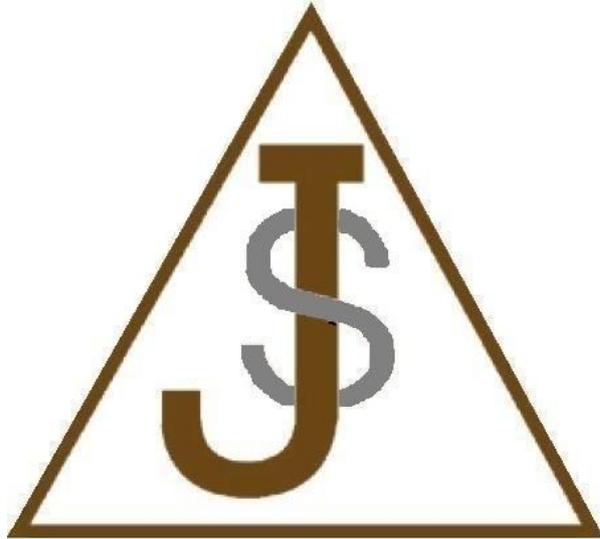


St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Positive Handling Policy

Date approved:
Date for review:

Head Teacher Tracey Churchill

Chair of Governors John Rimmer

Mission Statement

We are proud of our school as a place of learning, prayer and happiness. Hand in hand with God, Our Lady and St. Joseph, we promise to work hard and be kind to one another so that we can grow stronger together in our faith.

This policy on the use of physical interventions supplements the main behaviour policy. Both should be read in conjunction with the school SEND policy, the Health and Safety policy and the Safeguarding Children policy.

Purpose of the policy

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 the values and principles of St Joseph's Catholic Primary school. In particular, it aims to describe the circumstances in which physical intervention is an appropriate response and how staff at the school will fulfil their responsibilities in those circumstances.

The Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring that staff, Governors and parents are aware of the policy and that any necessary training/awareness-raising takes place so that staff know their responsibilities.

De-escalation techniques used within school

The techniques below are used in school to de-escalate inappropriate behaviour.

Verbal support	Diversion	Withdrawal
Firm, clear direction	Reassurance	Other adult
Negotiation	Planned ignoring	Consequence reminders
Limited choices	Humour	CALM talking/stance
Success reminders	Extra visual support	Distraction
Time out	Sensory break	Other

The Legal Framework

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use 'reasonable force' to prevent a child from:

- Committing a criminal offence
- Injuring themselves or others
- Damaging property
- Acting in a way that is counter to maintaining good order and discipline at school

What is meant by 'reasonable force'?

There is no statutory definition of 'reasonable force'. Whether the force used is reasonable will always depend on the circumstances of individual cases.

What is meant by Physical Intervention?

Physical intervention can be categorised into **non-restrictive** and **restrictive**. A non-restrictive physical intervention is when a child's movement is not restricted or when they are held supportively. A restrictive physical intervention prevents, impedes or restricts movement or mobility.

When a restrictive physical intervention is justified, staff will use 'reasonable force'. This is the degree of force 'warranted by the situation'. 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.

Any physical intervention should be REASONABLE, NECESSARY, PROPORTIONATE and in the BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD.

Acceptable Physical Interventions used

The school has adopted the Team Teach approach which promotes a gradual and graded response to physical intervention. Listed below are the accepted Team Teach strategies that have been taught to staff (trained staff listed in the appendices). Training on physical intervention given to staff includes background theory and rationale behind the Team Teach approach as well as an understanding of personal space and body language before any physical interventions are taught.

Caring C guide	Single elbow	Double elbow
Friendly hold	Figure of 4	Wrap

Physical intervention in context

Physical intervention is never seen in isolation. It is but one strategy available to staff and should always be seen as a last resort when all other strategies have failed. When the professional decision is made by a member of staff to physically intervene in line with school policy, the risk assessment that takes place at that point in time will require careful judgement by the staff member to balance the risk of using the physical intervention compared to doing nothing. Physical interventions can be placed into two broad categories:

- Emergency and unplanned interventions

Emergency interventions will involve staff using, where necessary, one or a combination of the strategies mentioned in response to an incident. This will occur when all other strategies have been exhausted or the incident requires a rapid physical response (eg a child running into the road).

- Planned interventions

Planned interventions involve staff using, where necessary, one or a combination of the strategies mentioned as an agreed response to an identified behaviour. This will be documented in a Positive Handling Plan (PHP – template in appendices) and will be reviewed each term. Permission of parents/guardians will be sought before initiating this as an accepted response. PHP's will list the accepted strategies to be used as well as strategies that may be used beforehand.

Reporting and Monitoring of Incidents

Reporting and monitoring is of paramount importance for a number of reasons:

- Protection for pupils and staff.
- A record of number of incidents so times/areas that most incidents occur can be tracked and action taken.
- A record of any injuries received by children or staff.

Serious Incident Reports must be completed following a physical intervention (template in appendices). Each incident must be reported, documented and handed to the Head/Deputy Head teacher within 24 hours of it occurring. A copy of the form will be kept in the child's SEN folder. Parents will also be informed if physical intervention has taken place. When the child is calm, a positive listening and debriefing session should take place. This information will need to be recorded on the Serious Incidents Report.

Complaints

In the event of a complaint being received by the school in relation to the use of force by staff, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with agreed procedures against staff members. If a parent raises a concern regarding the use of physical intervention with their child, this will be reported to the Head teacher who will take the necessary actions. The school has a complaints procedure in place, which is available to all staff. Any concerns from staff regarding Positive Handling should be conveyed to the Head teacher.

Trained staff

The following members of staff have been trained to use positive handling techniques within St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

Role	Name
Deputy Headteacher	Mrs Brett
Foundations Stage lead	Mrs Corden
Teachers	Miss Gordon Miss Langton
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Bullivant Miss Burns Mrs Cafferky Miss Williamson

This policy will be reviewed by the Personnel Committee of the Governing Body.

Date of this review: April 2019

The policy is available publicly on the school website.

Personnel list

Head Teacher: Tracey Churchill

SENCO: Amy Johnstone

Chair of Governors: John Rimmer