



## Positive Handling Policy

Under no circumstances should any form of corporal punishment be used upon a child.

Within the school's related activities, teachers and classroom assistants stand in loco parentis. On occasions, it is natural and right, for the teacher/classroom assistant to hold or put an arm around a child to comfort or reassure him – particularly if the child is injured or distressed in some way. In the nursery and reception classes, it would also be natural in similar circumstances to sit the child on the adult's lap for a short period of time until the child has recovered sufficiently to return to their previous occupation.

Comforting children in distress is a separate issue to the Positive Handling Policy.

There may be occasions when circumstances warrant the restraint of a child – holding the child against his will. Section 550A of the Education Act confers the responsibility for **all teachers to use reasonable force to control and/or restrain children and young people**. Force is only reasonable if the circumstances warrant it. Restraint can take several forms:

- Physically interposing between pupils
- Blocking a pupil's path
- Holding
- Pushing
- Pulling
- Leading a pupil by the hand or arm
- Shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back
- In extreme circumstances, using more restrictive holds. If restrictive physical intervention is to be used, it should be registered with the Headteacher.

There are various incidents when it might become necessary to use reasonable force to restrain a pupil:

- If pupils are fighting
- If a child assaults another child or a member of staff
- If a child is self-harming or could endanger himself
- If a child displays out-of control behaviour
- If a pupil persistently refuses to obey instructions or leave a classroom or the playground or any other school area
- If a pupil behaves in a way which causes serious disruption to a lesson

Where the school is aware that a particular child may behave in a way that could require physical control or restraint, it is necessary to plan the appropriate response in order to vitiate the negative behaviour or aggression.

- Teachers, classroom assistants, parents and child should be involved in forming an action plan.
- Members of staff must be aware of the methods of control to be used.

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- If an incident occurs, members of staff must make a written record of the incident with the names of all witnesses and the nature of the force or restraint used.
- The parents should be informed about the incident and the action taken at the earliest possible opportunity.

Please also refer to the document 'The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils Section 550A of the Education Act 1996' (based on the DfES Circular 10/98 'Restraint' DfES Circular 10.98')