

The Levett School



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Positivity | Determination | Reflection | Integrity

Positive Handling Policy

<i>Policy agreed by Governors on:</i>	13 th November 2018
<i>Review date for Governors:</i>	November 2020
<i>Allocated Group/Person to Review:</i>	Claire Whitehead
<i>Agreed frequency of Review, by allocated person:</i>	Every Year
<i>Last Review date:</i>	05/10/20

Lower School, Melton Road, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 7SB
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Doncaster
Council

Positive Handling Policy

This appendix is a statement of the arrangements for Positive Handling at The Levett School

1. Rationale

- This policy is based on the idea that physically restraining pupils will be as a last resort and occur rarely and only when there is no alternative in the pupil's and other's interests and safety. Physical restraint should only be used where behaviours are such that they will have a direct impact on the safety of the pupil, of others, where there is a risk of damage to property or where there is serious disruption.
- The Levett School recognises the importance of placing its policy on physical restraint within the context of its whole-school approach to behaviour and discipline. This school's behaviour policy sets out the steps taken within school to positively promote and encourage good behaviour amongst pupils; is specific about what behaviour is expected of pupils and what is unacceptable and sets out the range of progressive sanctions and steps which staff might feel it becomes necessary to apply.
- The Provision also recognises the very real difficulties which staff can sometimes be faced with in their day to day dealings with pupils on matters involving behaviour and discipline. The Provision's approach to the issue of physical restraint is that:

2. Aims & Objectives

- Pupils are entitled to a safe and secure environment in which the highest value is placed on learning how to behave appropriately towards others.
- Staff are also entitled to a safe and secure environment and have a right to personal support and guidance about what is expected of them in a difficult situation

3. Training

- All staff may physically restrain pupils to protect the pupils or themselves without having received formal training according to LA documentation. However the Provision will undertake to train all staff and to update that training formally each year, with regular opportunities throughout the year for staff to practice their team approach to behaviour management and interventions. As a staff team we will work according to the training we receive from the LA representatives.

4. Implementation

- The Provision has a duty of care to all its pupils. Staff will therefore be required to act in a manner which safeguards and promotes the welfare of their pupils, and to do everything reasonable that is within their power to protect the child from harm, from harming others or from causing serious damage to property. In exceptional circumstances the carrying out of this responsibility may conceivably involve the use of reasonable force in accordance with the school's policy to physically control or restrain a pupil whose behaviour lies well beyond the usual boundaries of self-control.

- Physical restraint should at no time be used as a threat, a punishment to the pupil, or to force compliance with staff instructions when there is no risk of injury or serious harm to people or property.

Physical restraint will only be used in the following circumstances:

- The child is attempting to harm himself/herself or his /her actions may result in harm.
- There is a risk of physical injury to a member of staff or a member of the public.
- Damage to property is being caused.
- It is the judgement of the member of staff that there is a serious risk of any of the above happening unless immediate action is taken.
- The child is engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline in the Provision.

Wherever possible, staff should exhaust a range of appropriate behaviour management strategies aimed at preventing the situation from reaching the point at which physical intervention becomes considered, for example, discussion, persuasion, a brief period of withdrawal from the main group. Restraint will therefore only be used as a last resort after all other agreed avenues to defuse and de-escalate the situation have been pursued or where staff feel that immediate action is required.

Once a member of staff has decided to intervene physically in order to prevent injury occurring to any person, or serious damage to property, then he/she should:

- Give clear instruction warning the pupil that unless he/she conforms then physical restraint will be applied.
- Calmly explain to the pupil that staff are unable to allow him/her to damage or hurt others, once they have calmed down and is no longer posing a threat then the restraint will cease.
- Summon help from another member of staff, to assist and where possible one other to act as a witness.
- Use only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage, and apply for the minimum amount of time.
- Gradually relax the restraint as soon as it is judged safe to do so, to allow the child to regain self control.
- Reassure the pupil that no harm will follow.

Both pupil and the adult should be given time to recover, acknowledging that emotional distress takes longer to subside than physical symptoms. Immediately following an incident, with due consideration given to the safety of other staff and pupils and the good order and discipline in the Provision, staff involved will be given the opportunity to take time out.

Use of Reasonable Force

Please refer to the Department for Education guidance 'Use of reasonable force. Advice for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies', July 2013.

All members of School staff have a legal power to use reasonable force to control or restrain. This power applies to any member of staff at school. It can also apply to people whom the Headteacher has temporarily put in charge of students such as unpaid volunteers, cover staff or parents/carers accompanying students on a School organised visit.

Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. Any actions undertaken by staff will be taken in the best interests of the children.

Force used would be proportionate and reasonable. The school does not require parental consent to use reasonable force. School staff will always try to act in ways that will minimize chance of injury to the student but it may not always be possible. In addition, staff at Levett school are trained in Team Teach restraint techniques and undergo refresher training.

A regrettable but infrequent side effect of Team Teach techniques can be marking or bruising to the skin. This is not a sign that the techniques were applied incorrectly, or that excessive force was applied, it is simply a consequence that may occur if a child exhibits behaviour that results in a hold being utilised.

There may be circumstances where staff use techniques other than Team Teach. This does not mean that these other techniques are improper, unacceptable or unlawful. Any use of force will be judged according to whether it was reasonable, proportionate and necessary in those particular circumstances, at that particular time.

Reasonable adjustments will be made for students with disabilities and special educational needs.

Reasonable force may also be used to enforce a search for knives, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks, pornographic images or any articles that have been or could be used to commit an offence or cause harm.

Force will never be used as a punishment.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the class teacher is to:

- to act in a manner which safeguards and promotes the welfare of their pupils, and to do everything reasonable that is within their power to protect the child from harm, from harming others or from causing serious damage to property.
- work according to the training received from the LA representatives

The role of the Headteacher is to:

- Ensure that reports of incidents are correctly completed and filed.
- Ensure initial training for all staff takes place and to updated formally each year, with regular opportunities for staff to practice their team approach to behaviour management and interventions

- Ensure that in the case of a looked after child, a copy should be forwarded to the key social worker in order to be placed on a child's case file.
- Arrange for reports monitoring and evaluating the use of restraint to be prepared on a regular basis for the Management Committee.
- Monitor the use of restraint, including consideration of:
 - The attempts at defusing situations
 - Correct post-restraint procedures have been carried out
 - The need for individual risk assessments and positive handling plans
 - The need for INSET/training for staff

The role of parents is to:

- Agree to and support the behaviour policy including the use of positive handling appendix

The role of the Management Committee is to:

- Monitor and review the incidents requiring positive handling to ensure all actions are within stated guidelines

6. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher will;

- monitor the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis.
- report to the management committee on the effectiveness of the policy
- if necessary make recommendations for further improvements.

The Management Committee will;

- ensure that the Provision policy is administered fairly and consistently.
- review this policy every two years.