



Positive Handling and Restraint Policy September 2025

Rationale

At Southfields Primary School positive handling and restraint of children will only ever be used as a last resort at the school and will be reinforced with high quality staff training and thorough risk assessing procedures. Positive handling will only be used when all other strategies have failed or to prevent injury or harm to the child or other people at school.

Positive handling may be required to help facilitate the inclusion of children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and will only be carried out by members of staff who have undergone accredited training. Positive handling will be used in conjunction with the Behaviour Management Policy

Southfields Primary School has written this policy to ensure that best practice and procedures are carried out at the school. This policy complies with principles and requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

Aims

- To provide high quality accredited training and professional development to ensure that all members of staff are confident and competent at positively handling children.
- To provide a safe, caring environment for children to live, learn play and grow.

Implementation of Policy

The school understands that teachers and members of staff have the power to use reasonable force if appropriate. There is no legal definition for reasonable force, and it would be down to a court of law to decide on what constitutes as reasonable force.

The school works with the working definition of 'reasonable force' as being the minimum force necessary to prevent a child from harming themselves or others at the school. At the school reasonable force would not involve any of the following actions:

- Restraining a child by holding their collar, face or neck.

- Pulling or lifting a child off the floor.
- Restraining a child so that they are face down on the ground.
- Punching, kicking, slapping.

Responsibilities - Members of Staff

- Members of staff must ensure that the incident or circumstances warrants the use of positive handling or restraint. Positive handling or restraint must only be used to diffuse or calm the situation and for the minimum amount of time as possible.
- When a situation arises, which necessitates the use of positive handling or restraint, the following procedure must be followed before touching the child:
 1. The member of staff must calmly and repeatedly advise the child of the actions they are about to take and why.
 2. A second member of staff should be called to offer support and assist the procedure.
 3. Offer the child ways they could change their behaviour to prevent the restraint.
 4. Children and adults in the close vicinity must be moved away.
 5. Children must never be placed on the floor at anytime.
 6. As soon as the situation is safe the intervention must be gradually relaxed to allow the child to regain their composure and control.

During the Positive Handling or Restraint Procedures the Member of Staff must:

- Use the minimum amount of force necessary to make the situation safe.
- Keep talking to the child to try and calm them down and advise them on how to modify their behaviour.
- Control their temper and stay calm.
- The school does not permit the use of force as a reprimand or punishment or to cause humiliation or pain to a child.
- At the school the amount of force used to handle or restrain a child will be appropriate to the age and size of the child.
- The restraint should be discussed with parents at the earliest opportunity.
- Members of staff who have not been on accredited training or do not feel confident to restrain a child must inform the Headteacher and request help immediately.
- Incidents of positive handling or restraint must be recorded by the member of staff in a red bound book which is kept in the Headteacher's office. The headteacher must be informed at the earliest opportunity and in their absence the Deputy Headteacher must be informed.
- Members of staff who use too much force or physical interventions to discipline will be dealt with according to the Staff Disciplinary Policy.

Searching, Screening and Confiscation - Where necessary, searching, screening and confiscation will be used to safeguard a child/children at Southfields Primary School.

Southfields Primary School adheres to 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for Schools (May 2018).

Risk Assessment

Risk assessments are required for pupils who exhibit extreme behaviour. Responsible staff should think ahead to anticipate what might go wrong. When considering a pupils behaviour, staff will think about the following questions:

- Can we anticipate a Health and Safety risk related to this pupils behaviour?
- Have we got all the information we need to conduct a risk assessment?
- Have we provided a written plan as a result?

- What further steps can we take to prevent dangerous behaviour from developing?

Positive Handling Plans (Appendix 1)

Risk management is regarded as an integral part of behaviour management planning. All pupils who have been identified as presenting a risk should have a Positive Handling Plan. The plan details strategies which have found to be effective for that individual, along with any responses which are not recommended. Any techniques which have been found to be effective should be named, along with any alerts to any which have proved to be ineffective or which have caused problems in the past. Positive Handling Plans should be considered along with the child's Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) and any other planning document relevant to the pupil.

Post Incident Debrief

Following a serious incident, it is the policy of Southfields Primary School to offer support for all involved. This is an opportunity for learning and time needs to be given for following up incidents so that pupils have an opportunity to express their feelings, suggest alternative courses of action for the future.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Head Teacher will ensure that each incident is reviewed and instigate further action as required.

Parents

When there is a concern about a child, parents will be invited to contribute to a risk assessment and Positive Handling Plan. Written parental agreement will form part of this. Parents will be informed following serious incidents.

Complaints and Allegations.

Any complaints will follow the school's complaints procedure.

Disability Equality Impact Assessment

This policy has been written with reference to and in consideration of the school's Disability Equality Scheme. Assessment will include consideration of issues identified by the involvement of disabled children, staff and parents and any information the school holds on disabled children, staff and parents.

POSITIVE HANDLING PLAN

Name of child	DOB	Year Group
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Date plan started	Date plan discontinued
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Effective strategies previously used:

Strategies not recommended:

Physical techniques used effectively:

Physical techniques used which proved ineffective or problematic:

Date	Anticipated Risk	Strategy to use	Effectiveness