



## RAVENSDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL

### Positive Handling Policy

#### Introduction

This policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils who may need to be positively handled. This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies relating to interaction between adults and pupils specifically the school's Behaviour Policy.

The application of any form of positive handling places staff and children in a vulnerable situation. Staff, therefore, have a responsibility to follow the policy and to seek alternative strategies wherever possible in order to prevent the need for positive handling. Positive Handling will only be used as a last resort when all other behaviour management strategies have failed or when pupils, staff or property are at risk.

#### Definitions of contact

- (a) **Physical Contact:** Situations in which proper physical contact takes place between staff and pupils, e.g. in games/ PE or to comfort pupils
- (b) **Physical Intervention:** This may be used to divert a pupil from a destructive or disruptive action, for example guiding or leading a pupil by the hand, arm or shoulder with little or no force.
- (c) **Positive Handling:** This will involve the use of reasonable force when there is a risk to pupils, staff or property or if good order is being seriously prejudiced. All such incidents will be recorded and filed with the appropriate Lead Professional. The Head Teacher will be informed of all incidences of Positive Handling use.

#### Underpinning Values

Everyone attending or working at Ravensdale Junior School has the right to:

- a recognition of their unique identity
- be treated with respect and dignity
- learn and work in a safe environment
- be protected from harm

Pupils attending this school and their parents have a right to:

- individual consideration of pupil's needs by staff that has responsibility for their care and protection
- expect staff to undertake duties and responsibilities in accordance with the school's policies
- be informed about school rules, relevant policies and the expected conduct of all pupils and staff working in the school
- be informed about the school's complaint procedure
- The school will ensure that all pupils understand the need for and respond to clearly defined limits which govern behaviour in the school.
- Parents should ensure that the child understands and follows the School's Behaviour Policy.

### **Training**

Designated members of staff have been trained in Positive Handling (February 2017) and **no member of staff will or is expected to undertake positive handling without appropriate training.**

### **Strategies for Dealing with Challenging Behaviour**

Staff consistently use positive strategies to encourage acceptable behaviour and good order. Every effort will be made to resolve conflicts positively. Where unacceptable behaviour threatens good order and discipline and provokes intervention, some or all of the following approaches will be taken according to the circumstances of the incident:

- Verbal acknowledgment of unacceptable behaviour with request for the pupil to refrain; this includes negotiation, care and concern.
- Further verbal reprimand stating:
  - this is the second request for compliance
  - an explanation of why observed behaviour is unacceptable
  - an explanation of what will happen if the unacceptable behaviour continues.
- warning of potential need to intervene physically and that this will cease when the pupil complies. If possible summon assistance.
- Physical intervention. Reasonable physical intervention using the minimum degree of contact to prevent a child harming him or herself, others or property.

### **Escalating Situations**

The 1996 Education Act (Section 550A) stipulates that reasonable physical intervention may be used to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do any of the following;

- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils; whether the behaviour occurs in a classroom, during a teaching session or elsewhere (this includes authorised out-of-school activities)
- self-injuring or placing himself or herself at risk
- injuring others
- causing damage to property, including that of the pupil himself or herself
- committing a criminal offence (even if the pupil is below the age of criminal responsibility)

All challenging behaviour will be addressed using the guidelines set out in the Behaviour Policy. Should an incident require further intervention then staff will use **reasonable** physical intervention using the minimum degree of contact to prevent a child harming him or herself, others or property. The form of physical intervention may involve staff doing the following:

- physically interposing themselves between pupils
- blocking a pupil's path
- escorting a pupil
- shepherding a pupil away
- restraining a child following appropriate safe restraint techniques

### **Acceptable measures of Physical Intervention**

Positive handling can only be deemed reasonable if:

- it is warranted by the particular circumstances of the incident
- it is delivered in accordance with the seriousness of the incident and the consequences which it is desired to prevent
- it is carried out as the minimum to achieve the desired result
- the age, understanding and the gender of the pupil are taken into account
- it is likely to achieve the desired result

**Wherever possible, assistance will be sought from another member of staff before intervention.**

### **Recording**

Where positive handling has been used a record of the incident always needs to be kept and the Head teacher informed. All recording needs to be completed on the day of incident and needs to include the following:

- name of pupil
- date, time and place of incident

- a brief description of the incident and actions taken
- attempts made to calm the situation
- names of people who witnessed the situation
- any damage/harm to persons or property
- name of person informing parents
- after investigation a summary of action taken

After the review of any incident, a copy of the recording form will be kept in the Headteacher's office and in the pupil's records.

Members of staff will be kept informed of any action taken.

In case of any action concerning a member of staff, he/she will be advised to seek advice from his/her professional association/union.

### **Complaints**

The availability of a clear policy regarding Positive Handling and early involvement of parents should reduce the likelihood of complaints but may not eliminate them. Any complaints about staff will be dealt with under the school's Complaints about Staff Procedure Policy. The Chair of Governors will be informed of complaints but other governors will not be involved as a complaint may require further action on their part.

Signed .....

Dated .....

Review Date .....



**RAVENSDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**POSITIVE HANDLING POLICY 2017**

Signed .....

Dated .....

Review date .....