



Transform Trust

Positive Handling Statement

INTRODUCTION

This statement is based on guidance from Approach Training on De-escalation and Positive Handling.

Staff should also refer to the whole school behaviour policy.

DE-ESCALATION SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

Underpinning the success of managing the diverse needs that will be present in each classroom is the skill of the teacher in intervening early to **de-escalate** situations calmly when they arise. Remaining calm and professionally detached is not natural and therefore it is a skill that will need to be practised. Below are some examples of techniques that can be used:

- Stay calm
- Keep a neutral facial expression
- Be aware of personal space
- Distract/divert
- Reassure pupil
- Use a low voice
- Use non-judgemental language
- Give them a 'way out'
- Give them time to follow instructions

Things to avoid

- Do not make threats you cannot carry through, such as threatening to exclude the child.
- Do not be defensive or take it personally. What is being said may seem insulting and directed at you, but this level of aggression is not really about you;
- Do not use humour unless you are sure it will help and you have a very good relationship with the child;
- Do not use sarcasm or humiliate the child.

THE USE OF POSITIVE HANDLING

The use of positive handling will always be the **last resort**. All other behaviour management strategies will be used before physical intervention.

At our school we believe that the use of positive handling is only necessary to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing a criminal offence;
- Injuring themselves or others;
- Causing serious damage to property, including their own;

- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in the classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere on the school grounds or off-site on an educational visit.

Named individuals are trained in 'De-escalation and positive handling'. This training will be refreshed annually and a record of their training will be kept in the school.

In the event of using positive handling then only the trained techniques will be used. It should be used only to control or restrain and never with the intent to cause pain or harm. Staff should always avoid touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered inappropriate.

In using Positive Handling, the level and duration of the physical intervention will always be the minimum necessary to restore safety. In any action, due regard has to be taken to the age, understanding and sex of the pupil. Knowledge of the pupil is a key factor in the judgements that will be made.

Most children who may require positive handling will have an Individual Handling policy (IHP) in their file detailing strategies and techniques used. A risk assessment will have been first completed on the child. The IHP and outcomes of the risk assessment will be shared with and signed by the parents/carers and other relevant parties.

RECORDING INCIDENTS

Where positive handling has been used, the incident must be reported immediately to the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher. In the event of their absence, a member of the senior leadership team must be informed.

The handling log must be completed by the staff involved as soon as possible after the incident. The forms are to be obtained from and returned to the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher on completion.

In the event of an injury occurring, the appropriate accident/violence to staff reporting procedures must be followed.

Parents/carers of the pupils involved will always be advised of an incident and it may be necessary for it to be followed up by other disciplinary action or pastoral support.

This statement will be reviewed annually. It should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour policy, Safeguarding policy and Health and Safety policy.