

# **CRADLEY C OF E VA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **POSITIVE HANDLING POLICY (PHYSICAL RESTRAINT)**

Vision Statement: Enriching Lives

Policy written by: Mrs B Gleaves

<u>Dates</u>				
Written	Sept 2015			
Reviewed		March 18	Spring 2021	
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# **CRADLEY C of E VA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **POSITIVE HANDLING POLICY**

### **(PHYSICAL RESTRAINT)**

#### **See Behaviour Policy**

*1 Peter 3: 8 To sum up all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kind hearted and humble in spirit.*

**1a** At Cradley C of E Primary School our aim is to provide a welcoming, secure and safe environment.

**1b** This policy should be read in conjunction with the guidance issued from time to time by the DCSF. The school follows the principles and recommendation set out in this guidance. It should also be read in conjunction with the school's pupil behaviour policies. Our aim is to create an environment in which the use of force in relation to a pupil is unlikely.

## **2 Circumstances in which reasonable force may be used**

**2a** Section 550A of the Education Act 1996 allows teachers and other persons who are authorised by the Head teacher to use force as is reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do, any of the following.

- Commit a criminal offence (including behaving in a way that would be an offence if the pupil were not under the age of criminal responsibility)
- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property (including the pupils own property)
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline.

## **3 Staff authorised to use force**

**3a** Any teacher who works at the school and

**3b** Any other person whom the Head teacher has authorised to have control or charge of pupils. This includes

- Support staff whose job normally includes supervising pupils such as teaching assistants, lunch time supervisors and office staff.
- Can include people to whom the Head teacher has given temporary authorisation i.e. a member of staff who does not normally supervise children or a volunteer (for example a parent accompanying pupils on school-organised visit)

## **4 Reasonable Force**

**4a** There is no legal definition of when it is reasonable to use force but the following are guidelines:

- Whether it is reasonable to use force will always depend on the precise circumstances of individual cases
- The degree of force used must be proportional to the consequences it is intended to prevent.

- Any force must be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.
- The use of force to prevent trivial behaviour is not justified.

## **5 Deciding whether to use force**

Judgement on whether to use force and what force to use depends upon the circumstances of each case. Any force used should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

**6a** Staff need to make judgements about:

- The seriousness of the incident, assessed by the effect of the injury, damage or disorder which is likely to result if force is not used
- The chances of achieving the desired result by other means
- The relative risks associated with physical intervention compared with using other strategies

**6b** Wherever possible these judgements should take account of the particular characteristic of the pupil, including age or SEND the pupil may have

## **7 Using force**

The following procedure will be followed when physical intervention needs to be implemented:

- Try to give the child a clear warning;
- Try to offer an alternative escape route from the situation;
- Try to calm the situation down and talk things through;
- Continue to offer alternative escape routes and calming strategies throughout any incident;
- Whilst holding the child (if this is deemed necessary), do not discuss the issues that led to the incident – only try to calm the situation with positive reassurances;
- Members of staff involved in any physical intervention should remain calm, in control and consider all possible options;
- Staff will make an instant risk assessment of the situation, which will involve a number of considerations.

4.2, Choices for action are:

- Remove the audience;
- Observe and actively discourage from a safe distance;
- Use calming strategies;
- Physically intervene

4.3, When circumstances, time and recourses allow, staff should not tackle these incidents on their own.

4.4, Staff should avoid:

- Taking children into a prone position;
- Using pain to gain compliance;

- Taking children into a supine position; Putting arms up the back.
- 4.5, If the pupil is violent and/or strong, proper and safe “grounding” techniques need to be used.
- 4.6, Staff should aim to:
- Restrain in a standing position;
  - Restrain in a seated position;
  - Restrain in a kneeling ground position;
  - Use minimum physical intervention necessary;
  - Exercise maximum care;
  - Ensure that the child does not self-injure (eg by knocking his or her head on a wall);
  - Keep all airways clear for breathing.

**7a** Before using force staff should wherever practicable, tell the pupil to stop misbehaving and what will happen if they do not. The member of staff should communicate in a calm and measured manner throughout the incident. Staff are advised that as far as possible, they should not use force unless or until another responsible adult is present to support, observe and call for assistance.

**7b** Types of force used could include

- Standing between pupils or blocking a pupil’s path
- Leading a pupil by the hand or arm
- Ushering a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back
- In more extreme circumstances using appropriate restricting holds, which may need specific expertise or training.

**7c** Where there is a high and immediate risk of injury, any member of staff would be justified in taking any necessary action (consistent with the principle of seeking to use the minimum force required to achieve the desired result). For example to prevent a pupil running off the pavement onto a busy road, or to prevent a pupil hitting someone, or throwing something.

**7d** There are some situations where it is better to remove the rest of the pupils from the class if a child is a danger to them. The child causing the problem can then be dealt with. Staff should always avoid touching or restraining a pupil in a way that could be interpreted as sexually inappropriate conduct.

## **8 Recording incidents**

It is important that there is a detailed, written report of any occasion (except minor or trivial incidents) where force is used, logged in My Concern. Parents/carers will be informed of any recordable incident and will usually be offered an opportunity to discuss the incident with the Head teacher, Deputy Head teacher or appropriate class teacher and given a copy of this policy.

## **USE OF FORCE TO CONTROL OR RESTRAIN PUPILS: INCIDENT RECORD**

<b>Details of pupil on whom force was used by a member of staff (name, class)</b>	
<b>Date, time and location of incident</b>	
<b>Names of Staff involved (directly or as a witness)</b>	
<b>Details of other pupils involved directly or as witnesses, including any pupils involved who were vulnerable – SEN, disability, medical or social reasons</b>	
<b>Description of incident by staff involved, including any attempts to de-escalate and warnings that force might be used.</b>	
<b>Reason for using force and description of force used.</b>	
<b>Any injury suffered by staff or pupils and any first aid required.</b>	
<b>Follow up, including post-incident support, any disciplinary action against pupils</b>	
<b>When and how parent/carer informed and any views expressed</b>	
<b>Has any complaint been lodged</b>	
<b>Report compiled by:</b>	<b>Report countersigned by:</b>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Name:</b>
<b>Role:</b>	<b>Role:</b>
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>