

Heart of the Forest Community Special School

Behaviour Management:

Positive Handling and Physical Intervention Policy

Heart of the Forest Community Special School is committed to keep all children safe. This policy should be read in conjunction with our Behaviour Policy, Anti-bullying policy, Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy Use for Reasonable Force (Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies July 2013) and with the Keeping Children Safe in Education document (September 2016)

Our Behaviour Policy promotes a positive approach and attitude towards pupils' behaviour. Praise, reward and encouragement are regarded as the most effective way of supporting pupils to manage their behaviour well.

On occasions some pupils can exhibit behaviours which may need to be managed by using physical intervention.

Provisions came into being on 1st September 1998, clarifying the use of force in schools and they were revised in July 2002 (The use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils (Sec550zb(5) of the 1996 Education Act/ amended in 2002)

Corporal punishment

Any form of corporal punishment (deliberately intending to punish a pupil by physical contact) is forbidden by law

Using reasonable force

Reasonable force can be used:

- To prevent a pupil committing a criminal offence
- To prevent a pupil injuring themselves or others
- To prevent a pupil damaging any property
- To prevent a pupil behaving in a way which compromises good order and discipline

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force in the above circumstances.

How do we use reasonable force?

- Staff are trained in Team Teach on a rolling two year programme. Any physical intervention should be in accordance with this training
- The needs of pupils must be paramount in all situations

- Staff should ensure that any interventions are reasonable, proportionate and necessary
- Staff should focus on de-escalating behaviour
- Physical intervention should only be used when all other strategies have failed or circumstances are so severe that immediate intervention is necessary
- Restrictive physical interventions should be in accordance with Team Teach strategies and written into individual behaviour plans.

Recording

Any physical interventions should be recorded on a Team Teach incident report form and given to the head teacher.

All incident reports are transferred to the bound book

In all circumstances where physical intervention is required there must be an individual behaviour plan that is agreed by parents and signed by the head teacher. This is a working document and parents must be informed of any changes to it.

Parents must be informed about the use of physical intervention. How this information is communicated should be agreed between the class team and the parent and noted on the Team Teach incident report.

If a physical intervention is used as an emergency one-off incident parents will be telephoned by a member of SLT to talk through the incident.

Any injury that occurs as a part of a behaviour incident should be recorded on the accident, incident, near miss form and it may be necessary to report to HSE.

Monitoring, review and evaluation

This policy undergoes a detailed review by staff and governors as appropriate. The Governing Body, together with the Head teacher monitors the effectiveness of the policy.

Policy ratified on:

Chair of Governing Body:

Pat Byett