

Positive Handling Policy

Updated: September 2019

Review: September 2021

Introduction:

Wodensfield Primary School is committed to maintaining the safety of students and staff. Situations involving decisions about whether to use force can occur in school. This policy seeks to establish clear guidelines on the use of force by staff and acts as an important part in minimising risks associated with choosing to use or not use force.

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a student from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- A. Committing any criminal offence
- B. Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student him/herself)
- C. Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any students receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Objectives: This policy seeks to:

- Ensure the safety of students and staff
- Prevent serious breaches of school discipline
- Prevent serious injury to staff and/or students
- Provide guidelines to staff when faced with situations that may require the use of force

Use of Force

- This Act does **NOT** allow for the use of corporal punishment in the school
- The law **forbids** a teacher to use any degree of physical contact which is deliberate to punish a pupil.
- If there is a child in school who is likely to behave in a way that may require control then it would be sensible to plan for this.

When reasonable force can be used?

See also Use of reasonable force advice Reviewed July 2015

- Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.
- In a school, force is used for two main purposes – to control pupils or to restrain them.
- The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline on a field trip, swimming etc)

Staff authorised by Headteacher to use restraint

- Teaching staff (Staff most likely to experience challenging behaviour, have received training in the use of restraint – where possible these nominated individuals will use recommended restraint procedures)
- Nursery nurses (as above)
- Senior Midday Supervisors (during lunch breaks)
- Classroom assistants out on visits with pupils and any appropriately trained staff.

Governors – re Behaviour Policy

Governors have a responsibility towards discipline they must:

- Agree general principles in written statement
- Periodically review the Positive Handling Policy
- Before revising, governors should consult the Headteacher and parents of pupils at school
- Take account of comments by the Headteacher
- Give guidance to the Headteacher
- Ensure school follows the policies
- Headteacher responsibilities day to day – but governing body should satisfy themselves about the Headteacher's policies

Equality and Diversity

At Wodensfield we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of **race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief**. We will adhere to the legal definitions of these protected characteristics as set out by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) code of practice which can be found in our single Equality and Diversity Policy.

Training

Staff should receive regular training as part of INSET provision on the appropriate use of positive handling.

Review of Policy

The Headteacher and members of the Leadership Team will monitor the use of this policy on a day to day basis. Periodic reports will be made to the Governing Body about the use and implementation of this policy. The policy is subject to regular review, according to the cycle of policy review determined by the Governing Body.



Wodensfield

Primary School

Positive Handling Record

Name of Pupil:

Name of Witnesses:

Date:

Name of Staff:

Reason why force was necessary

Incident:
(begun, progressed, degree of force used)

Outcome of Incident

Orally

Writing

Informing Parent