

# Christ Church CE Academy



## Positive Handling and Positive Management Policy

This Church of England Academy aims to serve its community by providing an excellent education for pupils of all abilities and backgrounds in the context of Christian belief and practice.

It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and requires the valuing of other faiths.

It promotes Christian values and spiritual development through the experience it offers to all its pupils,

These values are implicit in this policy.

### Status

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January 2020	Date for Review

# **Christ Church CE Academy**

## **Policy on Positive Handling and Positive Management**

### **Introduction**

This policy has been written in line with the advice and recommendations of 'The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils' (DCSF, 2010) and Kirklees Council policies on Positive Handling Strategies. Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 clarifies the powers of teachers, and other staff who have lawful control or charge of pupils, to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing a crime, causing injury or damage or causing disruption. There is a common misconception that, since the Children Act 1989, any physical contact with a child is in some way unlawful. That is not true. Where necessary, reasonable force can be used to manage pupils in a positive way. It follows then, that we must have a Policy that explains what is acceptable and what is not. All involved with the school, Governing body, Staff, Parents and Pupils need to know that a Policy exists.

### **Planning For Incidents**

Here at Christ Church CE Academy we have in place a calm, orderly and supportive school climate that minimises the risk and threat of violence of any kind. Relationships between staff members and pupils are positive and supportive.

When problems arise we make every effort to deal with them before they escalate. Staff members are trained to use de-escalating techniques as part of their 'Team Teach' accreditation. Any physical intervention will only be used when the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved in not intervening.

Section 93 allows all authorised staff to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following-

1. Committing a criminal offence
2. Injuring themselves and others
3. Causing damage to property (including the pupil's own property).
4. 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, for example, on a school visit.

### **Authorised Staff**

At Christ Church CE Academy all staff who work at school have been authorised by the Headteacher to use reasonable force to manage or restrain pupils in exceptional circumstances. The vast majority of staff members have undergone training in 'Team Teach' techniques.

### **Types of Incidents**

There are a wide variety of situations in which positive handling might be appropriate, or necessary, to control or restrain a pupil. According to Section 93 they fall into 3 broad categories:

1. Where action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury
2. Where there is a developing risk of injury, or significant damage to property
3. Where a pupil is behaving in a way that is compromising good order and discipline

The circular outlines the following examples of situations that fall within 1 and 2 above.

- a. A pupil attacks a member of staff, or another pupil
- b. Pupils are fighting
- c. A pupil is engaged in, or is on the verge of committing, deliberate damage or vandalism to property
- d. A pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects
- e. A pupil is running on a corridor or on a stairway in a way in which he or she might have or cause an accident likely to injure him or herself or others
- f. A pupil absconds from a class or tries to leave school (N.B. this will only apply if a pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or at school).

The circular outlines the following examples of situations that fall into the third category:

- a. A pupil persistently refuses to obey an order to leave a classroom
- b. A pupil is behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting a classroom

### **High Risk Pupils**

Where pupils are known to have potential to exhibit behaviours likely to need positive handling, a Risk Assessment and/or an Individual Behaviour Plan and/or a Positive Handling Plan will be in place following discussions with parents/carers.

### **Reasonable Force**

There is no legal definition of “reasonable force”. The circular states three relevant considerations:

1. The use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of a particular incident warrant it. Therefore, physical force could not be justified to prevent a pupil from committing a trivial misdemeanour, or in a situation that clearly could be resolved without force.
2. The degree of force employed must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or the consequences it is intended to prevent. Any force used should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.
3. Whether it is reasonable to use force and the degree of force that could reasonably be employed might depend on the age, understanding and sex of the pupil.

### **Practical Considerations**

Before intervening physically a teacher should, wherever practicable, tell the pupil who is misbehaving to stop, and what will happen if he or she does not. The teaching should continue attempting to communicate with the pupil throughout the incident, and should make it clear that physical contact or restraint will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary. A calm and measured approach is needed. Where possible, a teacher should not intervene without help from a colleague.

## **Application of Force**

Physical intervention at Christ Church CE Academy can take several forms. It might involve staff:

1. Physically (interposing) between pupils
2. Blocking a pupil's path
3. Holding
4. Guiding
5. Leading a pupil by the arm or hand
6. Shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back; or, (in extreme circumstances) using more restrictive holds

Staff at Christ Church CE Academy should not act in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause injury. 'Team Teach' techniques should be used at all times. All staff members know that physical intervention is no substitute for good behavioural management and is only to be used as a last resort. Restraint/physical intervention should never be used in a punitive way or in any other way which may be construed as a punishment.

## **Staff Training**

Staff members are trained in positive handling strategies through 'Team Teach'. This training should be repeated every three years. Training records are kept in staff personal files.

## **Recording and Reporting Incidents**

All incidents will be recorded in the green incident book (from Team Teach) book, which is kept in the Head Teacher's office. If a pupil has to be positively handled then we will contact the parent/guardian of the child as soon as possible, giving a full account of the behaviours leading up to the incident and the action taken.

If it appears likely that by reporting the incident to the parent/carer the pupil would be put at significant harm then the incident should be reported to the Kirklees LA and to WDAT.

## **Post –incident Support**

Staff and pupils involved in a serious incident will be given appropriate support including meeting any physical needs and rebuilding relationships and ensuring that lessons are learned from the incident.

## **Complaints and Allegations**

Any complaints and allegations will be dealt with according to the school's Safeguarding and Complaints policies.

## **Conclusion**

This policy should make it absolutely clear to all concerned with the school about the use of force to restrain pupils. Our positive behaviour policy works well, and physical intervention is a last resort, used in only very exceptional cases.

## **Monitoring and review**

This policy is part of our agreed Behaviour Policy, and will be reviewed annually.