



Surfleet Primary School

Policy for Positive Handling

We pride ourselves at Surfleet Primary School on providing a safe learning environment for our pupils. Sometimes, some of our children may get anxious or agitated - we will do our best to help pupils to calm down using communication skills, distraction techniques and removing triggers where possible. However, there may be times when children need more help to calm down - this may require staff physical support to ensure the pupil's own safety, the safety of other pupils and staff, or that property is not seriously damaged. This can require physical interventions. At Surfleet, we have adopted the Team Teach approach to manage challenging behaviour. Team Teach is an approach to positive de-escalation and handling which is accredited nationally by BILD (The British Institute of Learning Disabilities). The vast majority of our teaching and non-teaching staff have been trained in the use of this approach and we have access to a senior tutor within the Team Teach organisation who carried out our initial training, and is able to provide ongoing refresher training, and advise staff on positive handling when applicable.

At Surfleet we adhere to Lincolnshire County Council's policy entitled 'Positive Handling and Intervention Guidance' (approved by the Executive Committee 2002), a copy of which is kept in school and to which staff, governors and parents can refer.

The use of physical intervention is clearly sanctioned in certain circumstances by Section 550A of the Education Act 1996: The use of force to Control and Restrain Pupils. Circular 10/98 also provides guidance. The latest DCSF Guidance (September 2010) now has replaced DCSF Guidance (2007) and a copy of this is available to all staff, governors and parents / carers of pupils if required.

All parents of prospective pupils will be made aware of this policy before their children are admitted to the school and are required to sign the School/Home agreement which includes a reference to the use of positive handling.

Physical Restraint

The following staff at Surfleet Primary School are trained in positive handling through "Team Teach".

- Tom Verity on 6th July 2011
- Emily White on 6th July 2011
- All other staff have received training in January 2010 refresher courses held in March 2013 and May 2013
- Further training planned for new staff on 10th June 2014
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Training for staff will be renewed on a three year rolling programme with new staff being given the opportunity of joining centrally held training so that they are versed in the principles behind Team Teach and therefore in a position to fully support colleagues if ever the situation arose that this support was necessary.

Physical interventions will only be used as a last resort, for the minimum period of time once all other reasonable strategies have been exhausted.

The following situations or the prevention of the following situations occurring are the only occasions when a physical intervention is permitted.

- Immediate danger to self
- Disruption to immediate environment
- Fighting
- Assault/Attempted Assault
- Disruption to class
- Potential damage to property
- Threat of absconding
- Immediate danger to peers/staff
- Threats verbal/physical

Members of staff must always carry out their own personal risk assessment before embarking on a physical intervention and should always seek the assistance of another Team Teach trained member of staff to support/assist them.

Every incident of positive handling will be recorded by the staff involved in the official report book as soon as possible after the incident, **on the day on which it occurred**. (It will be seen as a disciplinary offence if this procedure is not followed). All staff involved, including those who did not positively handle the child, must confirm and agree the report and sign it before leaving the school premises on that day. Parents/carers of the pupil will always be informed about it by a member of the SMT as soon as possible on the day of the incident.

It will in future, from the date of this policy, be normal practice to put in place a risk assessment for any pupil who has required positive handling and for whom it has been or may in the future be a recurring aspect of managing their behaviour.

Written by Trevor Howe

Adopted at FGB 11.02.2014

Review date Nov 2016