

# **RED OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Summary of our Positive Handling Policy**

Review Date September 2021

Next Review Date Due September 2022

Please refer to our 'Policy on the use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils', which links with our Behaviour and Learning Charter, for the full policy. This is a summary to provide parents with an overview of our Policy.

Our positive Behaviour and Learning Charter seeks to develop a secure, stimulating, calm and well-managed learning environment. There may, however, be rare occasions on which members of staff will need to use 'reasonable force' in order to control or restrain pupils.

At Red Oaks School we believe that the use of reasonable force is only necessary to prevent a pupil from:

- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property, including their own
- Committing a criminal offence
- Engaging in any behavioural prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in the classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere

### **Risk assessment and planning**

Where positive handling has needed to be previously used, a Positive Handling Plan will be written which outlines possible triggers for their behaviours and suggested methods of prevention and de-escalation. These are shared with parents/carers and all staff that work with your child.

### **Unplanned/emergency use**

Emergency use of physical interventions may be required when pupils behave in unforeseen ways. In an emergency, to exercise 'duty of care', the use of reasonable force is permissible if it is the only way to prevent injury or serious damage to property, in line with this policy. Any staff whose roles include the supervision of children may use reasonable force in an unplanned intervention where it is necessary to prevent a serious injury from occurring.

### **Use of force and restraint**

At Red Oaks, we have a number of Team Teach trained staff, who are trained in positive handling methods. However, the use of restraint should always be the last resort. Wherever practicable before intervention, a calm warning or instruction to stop is given to de-escalate the situation. We make every effort to achieve a

satisfactory outcome without physical intervention – e.g. offering calm reassurance and understanding, striving to ensure that the child understands we're there to help them, asking them to stop and giving them opportunities to rectify the situation independently as well as strategies such as diversion, distraction and transfer adults. When physical intervention is needed, we always ensure that force is reasonable and proportional to the circumstances of the incident. The school accepts and understands that in accordance with the law corporal punishment is forbidden. Under the Equalities Act, careful consideration of any additional needs will be taken in to consideration and reasonable adjustments made accordingly.

### **Post-incident support**

Following the incident, positive listening and debrief takes place between those involved to help them to recover, rebuild and restore positive relationships and to learn for the future.

### **Reporting, recording and monitoring**

Where restraint has been necessary, incidents are reported to the Head Teacher, and logged in the school's Bound and Numbered Book. The Head Teacher reviews all incidents, and parents of pupils are advised of incidents, or are advised of significant incidents for those children who have Positive Handling Plans. It may be necessary for it to be followed up by other disciplinary action or pastoral support. As well as following each incident, a further review of all incidents takes place termly and the risk assessment is reviewed annually.