



Positive Handling Policy

2021-2022

St Edmund Campion Catholic Voluntary Academy

Aim:

- Establish a school community with means of supporting children whose behaviour requires some form of physical intervention (in conjunction with the school's behaviour policy).

Principles Behind Positive Handling Techniques:

It is recognised that there may be occasions when an individual child's behaviour has deteriorated to the point where he/she is not only a danger to him/herself but also to others. Even though all aspects of the school's behaviour policy may have been strictly adhered to and carried out, there could be times when the situation has become untenable. On these infrequent occasions it may be necessary to use Positive Handling techniques to remove the child to a place of safety in order for the situation to be calmed and resolved.

Responsibilities of Staff Dealing With Physically Disruptive Children:

In all cases where it is necessary for adults to remove children from a potentially dangerous situation by physical means, it must be remembered that the child concerned is still owed a duty of care and that the least physical intervention is still the most desirable course of action. The adults concerned in the physical act of removing a child to a place of safety also owe themselves a duty of care to ensure that they too are not placed in a position of harm by their actions.

Positive Handling Procedures:

Depending on the age of the child and the degree of physical intervention which is deemed necessary, the type of contact between staff member and child will vary and will take the form of a hold which has been approved for use in such circumstances.

In the event of a situation deteriorating to the extent that physical intervention is required the member of staff involved initially should normally seek the assistance of another adult member of staff. This is particularly important in the case of staff members dealing with pupils of the opposite sex. It is also important that staff members should have a witness that no excessive physical intervention techniques have been employed and that due consideration is given to the safety of pupils and staff during the duration of the incident. Used correctly, positive handling techniques are designed to protect both pupil and staff member, but staff who have a physical problem or disability should automatically seek help from another member of staff.

This also applies to female members of staff at any stage during a pregnancy. Staff members should also take care when using physical intervention by ensuring that their hands are free from any implements which may cause injury to the pupil. Any jewellery or wrist watches likely to scratch or cause injury to the pupil or staff member during an incident where physical intervention has been deemed necessary, should also be removed.

Recording of Incidents When Physical Intervention Has Been Used:

After any incident which has necessitated the use of physical intervention techniques, a record must be made as soon as practicable. For this purpose the staff member involved will need to write a brief account of the incident, using the bound and numbered book, stored in the school safe.. The details which are recorded should include the events which led up to the incident, the appropriate measures taken prior to the incident and the name of any adult witness or staff member who assisted at the time of the incident.

Review date: September 2022