



Manor Primary School

Positive Handling Policy
September 2023

Rationale:

The DfE suggests schools have a policy on the reasonable use of force to control or restrain pupils.

Purposes:

1. To inform staff, parents and governors as to appropriate use of restraint.

Guidelines:

N.B. All members of staff have a legal power to use reasonable force. This power applies to any member of staff at the school. It can also apply to people whom the Headteacher has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.

1. Reasonable force can be used in the following circumstances:

- Where criminal offence is being committed.
- Where pupils may injure themselves or others.
- Where the physical behaviour of a pupil is prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or amongst the pupils.
- When the action occurs on the school premises or during an authorised activity off the premises.
- When initially getting reluctant new pupils into school.

2. Three broad categories are described where reasonable force might be used:

- a. In self-defence, where risk of injury is imminent.
- b. Where there is a developing risk of injury or significant damage to property.
- c. Where good order and discipline are severely compromised.

Examples of situations that fall within one of the two categories a and b are:

- A pupil attacks a member of staff or another pupil.
- Pupils are fighting.
- A pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of material or objects.
- A pupil is running in a corridor in a way which he or she might have or cause an accident likely to injure him or herself or others.
- A pupil attempts to abscond from a class or tries to leave the school who would be at risk out of the classroom or school.



Examples of situations that fall into category c are:

- A pupil persistently refuses to obey an order to leave a classroom.
- A pupil is behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting a lesson.
- A pupil is behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school educational visit.

3. There is no legal definition of reasonable force, but criteria are established for guidance:

- If the circumstances of the particular incident warrant it.
- The degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances.
- The age, understanding of the pupil.
- Minimum force should only be used and never as a punishment.

4. Physical intervention can take a number of forms, for example:

- Physically interposing between pupils.
- Standing in the way of a pupil.
- Holding, pushing or pulling.
- Leading a pupil away from an incident by the hand or by gentle pressure on the centre of the back.

5. Force that **must not** be used includes:

- Holding round the neck or any other hold that might restrict breathing.
- Kicking, slapping or punching.
- Forcing limbs against joints (e.g. arm locks).
- Tripping or holding by the hair or ear.
- Holding face down on the ground.

6. The DfE guidance does not allow restraint to be used as a disciplinary action or punishment. All incidents of restraint as covered by this policy will be reported to the Headteacher who will record the serious incident log books. The DSL will have access to this record.

7. High needs children who are pre-identified will have appropriate handling advice incorporated into their EHCP by Inclusion Manager, ARP Manager and DSL.

8. Training in restraint will be offered as needed. All staff awareness of this policy dealt with under induction procedures.

9. Allegations of improper use of force should be reported as soon as possible to the DSL and SLT.



10. Other physical contact with pupils

It is not illegal to touch a pupil. There are occasions when physical contact, other than reasonable force, with a pupil is proper and necessary. At all times be mindful of how you are touching a child.

Examples of where touching a pupil might be proper or necessary:

- Holding the hand of the child at the front/back of the line when going to assembly or when walking together around the school.
- When comforting a distressed pupil.
- When a pupil is being congratulated or praised.
- To demonstrate how to use a musical instrument.
- To demonstrate exercises or techniques during PE lessons or sports coaching.
- To give First Aid.
- Hugging is not banned but child initiated hugs should be gently discouraged and never in isolated locations.