

Physical Intervention Policy

At Belford Primary School we endeavour to:

Create the right atmosphere for children to work, grow and develop their individual potential, helping them to become competent and confident adults able to live their own lives and contribute to society.

Provide a climate where children learn to co-operate with others, care for their peers and environment and respect the fact that not everyone looks, feels or thinks the same.

Introduction

This policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils who may need to be positively handled.

This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies relating to interaction between adults and pupils specifically the school's Behaviour Policy.

The policy will be reviewed bi- annually by the Headteacher and Governing Body.

Purpose of the policy

Good professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure good order in school. It is recognised that the majority of pupils in school respond positively to the discipline practised by the staff. This ensures the well-being and safety of all pupils and staff. It is also acknowledged that in **exceptional** circumstances staff may need to take action in situations where the use of positive handling may be required.

Every effort will be made to ensure that all staff in Belford Primary School:

i. clearly understand this policy and their responsibilities in the context of their duty of care in taking appropriate measures where positive handling is necessary and

ii. are provided with appropriate training to deal with these difficult situations should they occur. The application of any form of positive handling places staff in a vulnerable situation. Staff, therefore, have a responsibility to follow the policy and **to seek alternative strategies wherever possible** in order to prevent the need for positive handling.

Positive Handling will only be used as a last resort when all other behaviour management strategies have failed or when pupils, staff or property are at risk.

3. Definitions

Belford Primary School Positive Handling Policy

(a) Physical Contact

Situations in which proper physical contact takes place between staff and pupils, e.g. in games/PE or to comfort younger pupils.

(b) Physical Intervention

This may be used to divert a pupil from a destructive or disruptive action, for example guiding or leading a pupil by the hand, arm or shoulder with little or no force.

(c) Positive Handling

This will involve the use of reasonable force when there is an immediate risk to themselves or other pupils and staff.

Underpinning Values

Everyone attending or working at Belford Primary School has the right to:

- a recognition of their unique identity
- be treated with respect and dignity
- learn and work in a safe environment
- be protected from harm

Pupils attending this school and their parents have a right to:

- individual consideration of pupils needs by staff that has responsibility for their care and protection
- expect staff to undertake duties and responsibilities in accordance with the school's policies
- be informed about school rules, relevant policies and the expected conduct of all pupils and staff working in the school
- be informed about the school's complaint procedure

The school will ensure that all pupils understand the need for and respond to clearly defined limits which govern behaviour in the school.

Parents should have committed themselves through the Home-School Agreement to ensure the good behaviour of their child and that the child understands and follows the School's Behaviour Policy.

Training

Positive Handling training will be made available to designated staff and will be the responsibility of the Headteacher.

Prior to the provision of training, guidance will be given on action to be taken.

Strategies for Dealing with Challenging Behaviour

Staff consistently use positive strategies to encourage acceptable behaviour and good order. Every effort will be made to resolve conflicts positively. Where unacceptable behaviour threatens good order and discipline and provokes intervention, some or all of the following approaches will be taken according to the circumstances of the incident:

a) Verbal acknowledgment of unacceptable behaviour with request for the pupil to refrain; this includes negotiation, care and concern.

b) Further verbal reprimand stating:

- this is the second request for compliance
- an explanation of why observed behaviour is unacceptable

- an explanation of what will happen if the unacceptable behaviour continues.
- c) Warning of potential need to intervene physically.
- d) Reasonable physical intervention using the minimum degree of contact to prevent a child harming him or herself and others.

Escalating Situations

Physical intervention would only be deemed appropriate if a child is at risk of:

- self-injuring or placing himself or herself at risk
- injuring others
- causing damage to property, that may in turn harm his or herself.
- committing a criminal offence (even if the pupil is below the age of criminal responsibility)

Recording

Where positive handling has been used a record of the incident always needs to be kept. All recording needs to be completed on the day of incident and on the school incident form.

After the review of any incident, a copy of the recording form will be given to the head teacher where it will be filed in the central system.

Action after an Incident

The Headteacher will ensure that each incident is reviewed and investigated further as required. If further action is required in relation to a member of staff or a pupil, this will be pursued through the appropriate procedure:

- Child Protection Procedure
- Staff Facing Allegations of Abuse Procedure
- Staff or Pupil Disciplinary Procedure
- School Behaviour Policy
- Exclusions Procedure

Members of staff will be kept informed of any action taken.

In case of any action concerning a member of staff, he/she will be advised to seek advice from his/her professional association/union.

Complaints

The availability of a clear policy regarding physical intervention and early involvement of parents should reduce the likelihood of complaints but may not eliminate them. Any complaints about staff will be dealt with under the school's Complaints about Staff Procedure Policy. The Chair of Governors will be informed of complaints but other governors will not be involved as a complaint may require further action on their part.

13. Monitoring of Incidents

Whenever a member of staff has occasion to use physical intervention, this will always be recorded and

documented. Monitoring of incidents will help to ensure that staff are following the correct procedures and will alert the Headteacher to the needs of any pupil(s) whose behaviour may need to be reviewed or behaviour plans implemented. This process will address patterns of incidents and evaluate trends which may be emerging

Date adopted May 2014
Last reviewed: September 2018
Next review: September 2020

