

Positive Handling Policy

September 2025



(To be used in conjunction with the Behaviour Policy and Curriculum)

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 and Curriculum.

The application of any form of positive handling places staff and children 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.

Definitions of contact

(a) Physical Contact: Situations in which proper physical contact takes place between staff and pupils, e.g. in games/ PE or to comfort 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 a risk to pupils, staff or property or if good order is being seriously prejudiced. All such incidents will be recorded using CPOMS and Positive handling book kept in the Headteacher's office. Teachers will ensure the appropriate people will be notified including the Headteacher.

Underpinning Values

Everyone attending or working at St Joseph's Catholic 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 work in partnership with the school to ensure that the child understands and follows the School's Behaviour Policy.

Training

Members of staff will be trained on Positive Handling following the Team Teach program (September 2022 and January 2024).

Strategies for Dealing with Challenging Behaviour

All challenging behaviour will be addressed using the guidelines set out in the behaviour policy. Should an incident require further intervention be needed then staff will use ***reasonable*** physical intervention using the minimum degree of contact to prevent a child harming him or herself, others or property. The form of physical intervention may involve staff doing the following:

- physically interposing themselves between pupils
- blocking a pupil's path
- escorting a pupil
- guiding a pupil away
- use of the 'beanbag' technique

Recording

Where positive handling has been used a record of the incident always needs to be kept and the Head teacher informed. All recording needs to be completed on the day of incident and needs to include the following:

- ➔ name of pupil
- ➔ date, time and place of incident
- ➔ a brief description of the incident and actions taken
- ➔ attempts made to calm the situation
- ➔ names of people who witnessed the situation
- ➔ any damage/harm to persons or property
- ➔ name of person informing parents
- ➔ after investigation a summary of action taken

After the review of any incident, a copy of the recording form will be kept in the main behaviour book which can be found in the office.

Complaints

Any complaints about staff will be dealt with under the school's Complaints about Staff Procedure Policy.