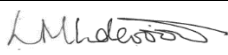


Policy Date:	September 2024	Version: 1.3		
Policy Review Date:	September 2025	Mrs Louise Underwood (Head Teacher)		01.09.2024
Adopted by Governing Body:				
Chair of Governors		Mr Ed Chester		01.09.2024



Physical Intervention and Positive Handling Policy 2024-2025



Avenue Primary School is an inclusive and nurturing school. We take safeguarding very seriously and all of our policies are developed with a high priority on pupils' safety and in light of our safeguarding policy. All of our school policies are interlinked and should be read and informed by all other policies.

This Physical Intervention and Positive Handling Policy is written to comply with The Department of Health document: *'Positive and Proactive Care: reducing the need for restrictive interventions'* (April 2014).

Introduction:

Avenue Primary School expects all members of the school community to treat each other with compassion, dignity and respect. We have a robust behaviour policy which all staff in school follow.

However, some children present with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties which fall outside of the remit of the behaviour policy. Therefore, we have some children *'whose needs and histories mean that [children] can reasonably be predicted to present with behaviours that challenge'* (Para 27, p 19). For these individuals a range of positive behavioural support strategies are used.

These include:

- Using person-centred, values-based approaches
- Use of individual behaviour support plans (**Primary preventative strategies**)
- De-escalation techniques (**Secondary preventative strategies**)
- Positive handling (**Tertiary strategies**)

Physical interventions and positive handling should only be used when all other de-escalation strategies have been tried unsuccessfully or in an emergency situation.

Positive handling '*Physical interventions*' are defined in the guidance as '*deliberate acts on the part of other person(s) that restrict an individual's movement, liberty and/or freedom to act independently in order to:*

- *Take immediate control of a dangerous situation where there is a real possibility of harm to the person or others if no action is undertaken; and*
- *End or reduce significantly the danger to the person or others; (or seriously damaging property)*
- *Contain or limit the person's freedom for no longer than is necessary.'*

Should these exceptional circumstances arise, key staff at Avenue Primary School are team teach trained and are authorised to use physical interventions (positive handling) by the Head Teacher.

Post Incident Reviews:

'Whenever a physical intervention has been used, staff and people should have separate opportunities to reflect on what happened.'

The following necessary documentation must be completed:

- SO2 form
- Electronic Physical Intervention Form (EPIF)
(https://my.leicester.gov.uk/service/Physical_Intervention_Record)
- Positive Handling Plan (PHP) and Risk Assessment / Individual Support Plan

For those children with a Special Educational Need whose difficulties include, *'disturbing, distressing and challenging behaviour; which may result in self injury, injury to others or damage to property'* (Guidance No.34 above) and whose behaviour needs direct handling as a matter of course; a *'Positive Handling Plan and Risk Assessment'*.

Procedure:

- It is important to talk through your actions in a calm way
- If necessary, ask other children to move away and other staff to make the area safe e.g. removing potential hazards
- Release the child when it is safe to do so (i.e. safe space / when they are calm)
- Remove to a quiet safe space if possible to discuss / diffuse / resolve the incident
- Allow yourself time to calm down and assess the incident (other staff to step in if needed)
- Incidents resulting in injury - however minor- will be logged as soon as possible using the SO2 forms
- Other incidents will be logged using the incident report form
- Parents should be informed of the incident where a physical intervention has been necessary