



CARLINGHOW ACADEMY

Positive Handling Policy

Approved by:	Governors		
Responsible department:	Carlinghow Academy		
Last review date:	March 2023	Last reviewed by:	Governors
Last updated:		Last updated by:	
Next review due :	March 2024		

Carlinghow Academy are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment. This policy is based on government guidance. The circular refers to the 1996 and 1997 Education Acts and use of reasonable force in schools July 2013, which clarify the position regarding the use of physical force by teachers and other staff working in schools, to control or restrain pupils. Relevant staff have been Team Teach trained in positive handling methods.

When positive handling should be used

Carlinghow Academy we believe that the use of reasonable physical restraint is only necessary to prevent pupils from:

- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property, including their own
- Engaging in any behaviour that causes great disruption or a breakdown in discipline among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in the classroom or elsewhere on the provision grounds
- Committing a criminal offence
- Prevent pupils attempting to leave school premises

The use of physical restraint will always be the last resort. All other behavioural management strategies will be used before physical intervention.

Positive handling, where used, should always be reasonable. There is no definition of 'reasonable force'. It should always be proportionate to the circumstances of the incident. It should be used only to control or restrain and never with the intent to cause pain or harm. It must, therefore, be the minimum needed.

Responsibility

All staff are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the procedure to follow should a situation arise. Staff should always avoid touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered inappropriate. Only staff who have completed 'team teach' training will use positive handling unless there is a danger to life (for example a child runs into the road).

In using physical restraint, the level and duration of the restraint will always be the minimum necessary to restore safety. In any action, due regard has to be taken to the age and understanding of the pupil. Knowledge of the pupil is a key factor in the judgement that will be made.

Strategies and techniques that may be required for an individual will be included in the pupil's, Individual Behaviour Plan or Behaviour Management Plans. Written guidelines on the use of positive handling techniques need to be agreed or approved by all relevant parties including parents or guardians.

Recording Incidents

Where restraint has been necessary, the incident must be reported immediately to the via CPOMs to the SLT/ Safeguarding Officer. In the rare event where a mark is left on a child from a hold a body map should be completed and attached.

Staff involved in any incident are given time to 'de-brief' with comments recorded in the report.

Pupils that have been restrained are given time to 'de-brief' with a third person present. The pupil's comments will be recorded on CPOMS.

The schools will ensure that time is given to 'repair' relationships between staff involved in the restraint and the pupil.

In the event of an injury occurring, the appropriate accident reporting procedures must be followed.

Parents/Carers of the pupils involved will always be advised of an incident and it may be necessary for it to be followed up by other disciplinary action or pastoral support.

Restraint is an extremely rare incidence in any school and, in most cases, will only be used as an absolute last resort.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Restraint Report Form

Name of child	
Date & Time	
Location and school site of incident	
Person/s involved in restraint	

What de-escalation strategies were attempted before restraint was used?

E.g. Reassurance, negotiation, choices/limits, humour, verbal advice and support, distraction, consequences, planned ignoring, withdrawal, success reminder, time out offered/time out directed - observed/unobserved

Incident details

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Action taken by school

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Reported by

(Name, sign & date)

SLT

(Name, sign, position & date)