

FRODSHAM WEAVER VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Positive Handling Policy

At **Frodsham Weaver Vale Primary School** we strive to create an environment in which both children and adults feel happy, safe, secure and valued. We aim to ensure a whole school approach to behaviour that is known and understood by all staff, children, parents and outside agencies.

The use of force upon any pupil by a member of staff is a serious matter and should only be considered as a last resort. However, the law is clear and the Governing Body has a responsibility to all concerned, to support any member of staff who as a last resort uses reasonable force in accordance with the law and this policy.

This policy is designed to serve the best interests of children and to reduce risk of harm to school staff. It is based on, and should be read alongside;

- DfE Use of Reasonable Force Guidance 2013 and other school policies on
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- SEND Policy

In this policy, the term "staff" refers to teachers, teaching assistants, mid-day assistants and support staff alike.

At **Frodsham Weaver Vale Primary School** we aim:

- To develop in children a sense of acceptance of responsibility for their own actions in order to promote positive behaviour choices.
- To create conditions for a learning community in which effective engagement can take place, in which there is mutual respect between all members, and where there is proper concern and ownership for the environment.

However, we also acknowledge that there are times when poor behaviour choices may require staff intervention to ensure the safety of the child, other children and staff and that this may require the use of physical interventions.

The Legal Framework

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 states that reasonable force may be used to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- injuring themselves or others;
- committing a criminal offence;
- causing damage to property

The DfE Use of Reasonable Force Guidance allows all staff at a school to use reasonable force to keep children safe. It also allows other adults in the school to use physical interventions where reasonable, proportionate and necessary to ensure the safety of children. Those might include classroom assistants, care workers, midday supervisors, specialist support assistants, escorts, caretakers or voluntary helpers, including people accompanying pupils on visits, exchanges or holidays organised by the school.

At **Frodsham Weaver Vale Primary School** only staff who have received appropriate Team Teach Positive Pupil Handling training are authorised to use positive handling techniques when and where appropriate. An up to date list of people trained in Team Teach techniques is provided as an appendix to this policy. All staff have a duty of care to keep children safe.

Staff will always consider carefully whether physical intervention is necessary or if other options could be used to de-escalate the situation. At **Frodsham Weaver Vale Primary School** we insist that staff will exhaust all other possibilities in dealing with a significant behaviour situation using a range of other strategies before using physical techniques. Staff need to develop strategies and techniques for dealing with difficult pupils and situations, which they should use to de-escalate and calm a situation. Advice and support will be sought from outside agencies when necessary. Staff are trained regularly on other appropriate strategies. Refer to DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018.

Team-Teach techniques seek to avoid injury to the service user, but it is possible that bruising or scratching may occur accidentally, and these are not to be seen necessarily as a failure of professional technique, but a regrettable and infrequent “side-effect” of ensuring that the service user remains safe.

Key Points

- School staff have a legal power to use reasonable force and lawful use of this power will provide a defence to any related criminal prosecution or other legal action
- Suspension should not be an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force
- Senior school leaders should support their staff when they use this power

Planning for Incidents

Where we are aware that a pupil may be likely to behave in a way that may require physical control, the school adopts a proactive approach to managing these incidents by ensuring that an IEP/EHCP, Risk Assessment and Positive Handling Action Plan has been completed and that appropriate planning is in place to:

- De-escalate behaviour before it disrupts others
- Manage the pupil (e.g. reactive strategies to de-escalate a conflict and where necessary the physical techniques to be used when there is no other way)
- Support staff after any crisis situation
- Involve the parents or carers to ensure that they are clear about what specific action the school might need to take and agree to the plans
- Ensuring that additional support can be summoned where necessary
- Involve medical and health services where necessary

Reasonable Force

- It is advised that wherever possible, another member of staff is present if staff need to use reasonable force in order to assist and/or act as support
- Staff will always avoid touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered indecent and will always follow training advice
- 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
- Staff will never plan to restrict the liberty of a child and will always act in their best interests to keep them and others safe

Post Incident Support

- If injuries result from the application of reasonable force, medical help should be sought straight away.
- Staff and children must also be given emotional support.
- The child will have the opportunity to reflect on their choices and actions in a supportive structured discussion. This will help to improve behaviour long term if the child can take responsibility and learn to understand emotional responses and the impact on others.
- As soon as possible after an incident, parents/carers should be informed and provided with a copy of this policy.
- When reviewing the incident with staff, other multi-agency support will be considered.
- Where the child is responsible for the injury or distress to another person the child will be offered the opportunity to repair the relationship through a supported restorative approach.

Recording Incidents

All incidents where restraint has been necessary to be used by a member of staff will be carefully recorded and evaluated in the school’s Bound and Numbered Book. Immediately following any such incident, the member of staff concerned should tell the Headteacher, or a senior member of staff and provide a written report as soon as reasonably possible afterwards (in the bound and numbered recording book on site).

All other incidents of positive handling will be recorded using the school recording system CPOMS.

All reports – Bound and Numbered Book and CPOMS - should include the following (not limited to): date, times, members of staff present, dialogue used, strategies tried prior to physical restraint, physical restraint applied, location of restraint, any visible marks following restraint, result of restraint, any other strategies applied post restraint, follow up actions.

Staff may find it helpful to seek advice from a colleague or line manager on a description of the incident and action taken for recording purposes.

Complaints and Allegations

If a complaint is made against a member of staff about the use of force the school will follow the guidance set out in Section 8 of the Use of Reasonable Force: Advice for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies DfE – Ref: DFE-00341-2014

APPENDIX – Staff Currently Team Teach Trained (25/02/19)

Peter Van Geffen	Headteacher
Sally Baker	Deputy Headteacher
Ruth Curtis	Class Teacher
Heather Dixon	Class Teacher
Shannon Eastwood	Class Teacher
Jenny Kilfoyle	Class Teacher
Cory-Anne Taylor	Safeguarding, Pastoral and Inclusion Lead
Katherine Alexander	Class Teaching Assistant
Mandy Atherton	Class Teaching Assistant
Jo Hindle	Class Teaching Assistant
John Nicholson	Class Teaching Assistant
Debbie Sutton	Class Teaching Assistant
Susannah Stanton	Class Teaching Assistant
Sally Anne Thompson	Class Teaching Assistant
Angela Smith	Class Teaching Assistant
Jane Smith	Class Teaching Assistant
Sarah Montgomery	Class Teaching Assistant

Approved by the Full Governing Body in March 2019

Signed (Headteacher)

Signed (Chair of Governing Body)

To be reviewed by staff in February 2021.