



# SENDSCOPE

Independent School

## Positive Handling Policy

<b>POLICY WRITTEN BY:</b>	SENDSCOPE Director Jacqueline Bebbington
<b>DATE POLICY PREPARED:</b>	SEPTEMBER 2021
<b>DATE POLICY REVIEWED:</b>	September 2023 September 2024
<b>DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW:</b>	September 2027

## **Positive Handling Policy**

### **Introduction**

Staff within SENDSCOPE Ltd are trained to look after pupils in their care. Staff have a duty to intervene in order to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others. If a member of staff ever needs to intervene physically they will follow the school's Positive Handling Policy.

The term positive handling includes a wide range of supportive strategies for managing challenging behaviour. The term 'physical restraint' is used when force is used to overcome active resistance. A clear and consistent positive handling policy supports pupils who have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties within an ethos of mutual respect, care and safety.

The setting takes seriously its duty of care to pupils, employees and visitors to the school.

- The first and paramount consideration is the welfare of the children in our care.
- The second is the welfare and protection of the adults who look after them.

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables staff to use such force as is reasonable. There is no legal definition of when it is reasonable to use force.

Before using physical controls we take effective action to reduce risk by:

- Showing care and concern by acknowledging unacceptable behaviour and requesting alternatives using negotiating and reasoning.
- Giving clear directions for pupils to stop
- Reminding them about rules and likely outcomes
- Removing an audience or taking vulnerable pupils to a safe place
- Making the environment safer by moving furniture and removing objects which could be used as weapons
- Using positive guidance to escort pupils to somewhere less pressured
- Ensuring that colleagues know what is happening and call for help.

### **Restraint**

At our school we only use physical restraint when there is no realistic alternative. We expect staff to conduct a risk assessment and choose the safest alternative. It also means that we expect staff to experiment and think creatively about alternatives to physical intervention which may be effective. The paramount consideration is that the action is taken in the interest of the child and that it reduces rather than increases risk. Any response to extreme behaviour should be reasonable and proportionate.

Physical restraint must only be in accordance with the following:

- The child should be in immediate danger of harming itself or another person or in danger of seriously damaging property.
- The member of staff should have good grounds for believing this.
- Only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage should be applied.
- Every effort should be made to secure the presence of other staff before applying restraint. These staff can act as assistants or witnesses.
- Once safe, restraint should be relaxed to allow the child to regain self control.
- Restraint should be an act of care and control, not punishment.
- Physical restraint should not usually be used purely to force compliance with staff instructions when there is no immediate danger present to people and property.
- The restraint should be discussed with the child, if appropriate, and the parents at the earliest opportunity.
- In addition, whilst or before intervention, staff should speak calmly as a way of reassurance e.g. I am doing this to keep you safe

### **Responding to unforeseen emergencies**

Even the best planning system cannot cover every eventuality and the school recognises that there are unforeseen or emergency situations in which staff have to think on their feet. An unforeseen event may require an emergency response. After that event, staff have a duty to plan ahead and prepare a risk assessment.

### **Risk Assessment**

Risk assessments are required for pupils who exhibit extreme behaviour. Responsible staff should think ahead to anticipate what might go wrong. When considering a pupil's behaviour, staff will think about the following questions:

- Can we anticipate a Health and Safety risk related to this pupil's behaviour?
- Have we got all the information we need to conduct a risk assessment?
- Have we provided a written plan as a result?
- What further steps can we take to prevent dangerous behaviour from developing?

### **Positive Handling Plans**

Risk management is regarded as an integral part of behaviour management planning. All pupils who have been identified as presenting a risk should have a Positive Handling Plan. The plan details any strategies which have been found to be effective for that individual, along with any particular responses which are not recommended. Any particular physical techniques which have been found to be effective should be named, along with any alerts to any which have proved to be ineffective or which caused problems in the past. This should be provided by the school, where this is not provided SENDSCOPE Ltd will complete the plan in conjunction with parents/carers in order to safeguard the pupil at the school.

Positive Handling Plans should be considered along with the pupil's EHCP and any SEND and any other planning document relevant to the pupil. They should take account of age, sex, level of physical, emotional and intellectual development, special needs and social context.

### **Post Incident Debrief**

Following a serious incident, it is the policy of the setting to offer support to all involved. This is an opportunity for learning and time needs to be given for following up incidents so that pupils have an opportunity to express their feelings, suggest alternative courses of action for the future and appreciate other peoples' perspective. It is difficult to devise a framework of support that meets the need of all staff. As individuals we all vary in how much support we need after an unpleasant incident. Generally, a member of the Leadership team would expect to talk to staff and children involved (if appropriate) in any incidents involving violence. If members of staff need time to rest or compose themselves, then the Leadership team will make arrangements for the group to be supported.

### **Recording**

- All incidents of unacceptable behaviour should be recorded.
- All serious incidents or incidents involving restraint will be recorded on the appropriate form. Within these recording strategies, all details must be recorded by witnesses within twenty-four hours and signed by at least two members of staff. The Leadership team needs to be informed.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Leadership team will ensure that each incident is reviewed and instigate further action as required.

### **Parents**

When there is concern about a child, parents will be invited to contribute to a risk assessment and Positive Handling plan. Written parental agreement will form part of this. Parents will be informed of the setting's policies. Parents will be informed following serious incidents.

### **Complaints and Allegations**

Any complaints will follow the school's complaints procedure.

Behaviour, child protection, bullying policies etc will all be incorporated into the care package which is used to address each child's needs.

**Appendix 3**

**SENDSCOPE Risk Assessment**

<u>Setting:</u>	<u>Area/activity assessed: Pupil behaviour (Specific Pupil)</u>		<u>Date</u>
<u>Name of pupil:</u>			
<u>Undertaken by:</u>	<u>Position:</u>	<u>Signature:</u>	
<u>1.</u>			
<u>2.</u>			

<b>Summary of significant risks where action required (or state none)</b>	<b>Summary of Additional Controls</b>	<b>Who is action allocated to?</b>	<b>Date action to be completed</b>	<b>Action completion date</b>

<b>Reviewed/approved by Leadership team</b>	<b>Leader:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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Identification of hazards:	
Describe the foreseeable challenging behaviour of the pupil:	
Is there historical or current evidence of this behaviour?	
Who is most likely to be affected by the pupil's behaviour?	
Identification of risk:	
In which situations is challenging behaviour most likely to occur?	
How likely is it to occur in these situations?	
What kinds of injuries or harm are likely to be suffered? How serious are the adverse outcomes?	
Existing control measures:	
What is being done pro-actively to prevent challenging behaviour?	
What early interventions are in place if behaviour becomes challenging?	
What is done reactively to respond to adverse outcomes?	
Additional Control measures required (these measures should be moved into the section above once they are implemented)	
Proactive measures	
Early interventions	
Reactive interventions	
Training for Staff	
Involvement of other agencies	
Other controls required	
Additional support for staff	