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Physical Intervention Policy

We pride ourselves within the Emmaus Federation on providing a safe learning environment for our pupils. Sometimes, some of our children may get anxious or agitated - we will do our best to help pupils to regulate using communication skills, distraction techniques and removing triggers where possible.

However, there may be times when children need more help to regulate - this may require staff to use physical support to ensure the pupil's own safety, the safety of other pupils and staff, or that property is not seriously damaged. This can require physical interventions. Within the Federation, staff receive safer physical handling training to manage challenging behaviours, which may resort in physical intervention. A number of our teaching and non-teaching staff are trained in the use of safer physical handling. In the Spring Term 2021, all of our classroom staff were trained in 'Positive Handling: Legal Brief on the Use of Reasonable Force'. We provide ongoing refresher training, and advise staff on positive handling when applicable.

This policy refers to the DfE 'Use of Reasonable Force in schools' guidance (July 2013); our procedures are in line with guidance issued by BILD (British Institute of Learning Difficulties) and should be read in conjunction with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy, Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy and Safeguarding Policy. This policy details how we implement the guidance at The Emmaus Federation and is designed to help staff ensure that any actions they take are reasonable, proportionate and absolutely necessary.

Physical Restraint

Training for staff will be renewed on a three-year rolling programme with new staff being given the opportunity of joining centrally held training so that they are versed in the principles of safer physical handling and therefore in a position to fully support colleagues if ever the situation arose that this support was necessary.

Physical interventions will only be used as a last resort, for the minimum period of time once all other reasonable strategies have been exhausted.

The following situations or the prevention of the following situations occurring are the only occasions when a physical intervention is permitted.

- Immediate danger to self
- Disruption to immediate environment
- Fighting
- Assault/Attempted Assault
- Disruption to class
- Potential damage to property
- Threat of absconding
- Immediate danger to /staff/pupils/visitors
- Threats verbal/physical

Members of staff must always carry out their own personal risk assessment before embarking on a physical intervention and should always seek the assistance of other staff trained in safer physical handling to support/assist them.

Every incident of positive handling will be recorded by the staff involved on CPOMS as soon as possible after the incident, **on the day on which it occurred**. Parents/carers of the pupil will always be informed on the day of the incident.

It will in future, from the date of this policy, be normal practice to put in place a risk assessment for any pupil who has required physical handling and for whom it has been or may in the future be a recurring aspect of managing their behaviour.

Date of approval: March 2021

Review date: March 2024

Signed:

Claire Collett
Executive Headteacher

Ros Blowers
Chair of Governors