



St John's Primary School
Handling Policy – Updated August 2019

Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own safety and movement around the school at all times. Staff will use verbal instructions, visual signs and gestures, or position themselves to avoid children being in situations or handling objects which may be dangerous to themselves or others.

There are occasions when parents and children should be aware that staff may use physical reinforcement. The least restrictive restraint possible to prevent abusive or disruptive behaviour will be used when all other techniques have been tried or are unsuccessful, or immediately when a child or adult may be hurt or in danger. Physical restraint will only be used to help a child gain self-control.

Physical reinforcement may include:

- Holding a child's hand eg. walking with young children outside school or to comfort a distressed child
- Assisting with dressing/undressing for PE
- Assisting with toileting - amount of help needed will be discussed with individual parents.
- Stopping a child from touching, handling or removing objects which can be dangerous eg. If persisting in touching electrical/plumbing equipment
- Handling sharp objects
- Comforting a child who is upset - perhaps putting an arm around child after incident/accident

A member of the Senior Leadership Team should be made aware if the measures below are taken and parents should be notified. Individual incidents are recorded on pastoral notes. A number of staff members have had training in safe handling and physical techniques and this is renewed annually.

- Holding a child who is in danger of hurting him/herself or another child or adult.
- To stop an argument which has become physical
- When a child is in danger of hurting him/herself on furniture or with an object
- When a child is hitting, kicking, punching, spitting or throwing objects at others.
- Physically removing a child from the situation in which he/she is obviously, persistently distressed and does not respond to verbal or visual instructions to remove him/herself.

If at all possible other children will be removed from the situation instead.

The Senior Leadership Team will arrange for appropriately trained staff to be deployed if physical restraint is required. In all cases where physical reinforcement is used 2 adults should be present.

Any child/young person considered likely to require a form of physical intervention as described above should have this information used to form the basis of a child's Wellbeing Plan. Indicators of anxiety or stress, likely triggers, calming techniques, strategies which may be useful and agreed responses to incidents should be noted.

Physical intervention (s) to be used (demonstrate to a parent if required)

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

School Staff signature: _____ Date: _____

Pupil/Young Person Signature (where appropriate) _____