



Positive Handling Policy

Reviewed: October 2024

Review Date: October 2025

Buswells Lodge Primary School is an inclusive school. We take safeguarding very seriously and all of our policies are developed with a high priority on pupils' safety and in light of our safeguarding policy. All of our school policies are interlinked and should be read and informed by all other policies.

This positive handling policy is written to comply with The Department of Health document: 'Positive and Proactive Care: reducing the need for restrictive interventions' (April 2014).

Introduction

Buswells Lodge Primary School expects all members of the school community to treat each other with compassion, dignity and respect. We have a robust behaviour policy which all staff in school follow.

However, some children present with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties which fall outside of the remit of the behaviour policy. Therefore, we have some children 'whose needs and histories mean that [children] can reasonably be predicted to present with behaviours that challenge' (Para 27, p 19). For these individuals a range of positive behavioural support strategies are used.

These include:

- Using person-centred, values-based approaches
- Use of behaviour support or positive handling plans (Primary preventative strategies)
- De-escalation techniques (Secondary preventative strategies)
- Positive handling (Tertiary strategies)

Positive handling should only be used when all other de-escalation strategies have been tried unsuccessfully or in an emergency situation.

Positive handling 'restrictive interventions' are defined in the guidance as 'deliberate acts on the part of other person(s) that restrict an individual's movement, liberty and/or freedom to act independently in order to:

- Take immediate control of a dangerous situation where there is a real possibility of harm to the person or others if no action is undertaken; and
- End or reduce significantly the danger to the person or others; (or seriously damaging property)
- Contain or limit the person's freedom for no longer than is necessary.'

Should these exceptional circumstances arise, key staff at Buswells Lodge Primary School are Team Teach trained and are authorised to use restrictive interventions (positive handling) by the Head Teacher. Trained staff at Buswells Lodge will follow the Team Teach procedures and strategies in which they have been trained.

Post incident debriefs

Whenever positive handling has been used, staff, and ideally the child when they are ready, should have separate opportunities to debrief the incident.

Debrief procedure:

- Allow anyone taking part in a debrief enough time to calm down so that their well-being is not impacted
- Talk through the events with a trusted colleague (debriefers)
- Debriefers to ask the individual if they are still happy to continue
- Discuss whether anything could be done differently in the future
- If possible, a restorative conversation should take place between the child and any adults involved when all parties feel as though they are able to

As part of, or after the debrief (dependent on the well-being of those involved), the following necessary documentation must be completed:

- Incident report form (Electronic EPIF)
- SO2 form (if any injuries occur)

For those children with a Special Educational Need whose difficulties include, 'disturbing, distressing and challenging behaviour, which may result in self injury, injury to others or damage to property' (Guidance No.34 above) and whose behaviour needs direct handling as a matter of course; a Positive Handling Plan will be written to work alongside a Pupil Outcomes Plan. A Positive Handling Plan must be written after the first occasion that any child has required positive handling. This plan must be shared with all individuals who will regularly work or interact with the child.

Review framework

This policy will be reviewed annually (or sooner in the event of revised legislation or guidance)

Signed: _____ Head of School _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Chair of Governors _____ Date: _____

Policy compiled and adopted by

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Amendments by

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