



## St Anne (Stanley) Church of England Primary

### Positive Handling (Restraint) Policy

#### **Rationale & School Statement:**

At St Anne's Primary School, we are committed to a positive behaviour policy, which encourages children to make positive behaviour choices. We do however recognise that occasionally children can make a wrong choice and on rare occasions this wrong choice may result in a situation that requires some form of physical intervention by staff.

#### **Aims:**

- To outline the legal framework regarding the restraint of a pupil.
- To outline the school's approach to the restraint of a pupil.
- To outline guidance for staff members when restraining a pupil.

#### **The Legal Framework:**

Section 93 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 allows, '*Teachers and other persons who have control or charge of pupils to use force as is reasonable in the circumstances for the purpose of preventing a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:*

- *Causing injury to his/herself or others,*
- *Committing an offence,*
- *Damaging property,*
- *Prejudicing the maintenance of good order & discipline.'*

#### **Approach:**

Our approach for physical intervention is based upon the following principles:

- Physical intervention should be used only as a **last resort** when other appropriate strategies have failed.
- Physical intervention should only be carried out in an act of care and control with the intention to re-establish verbal control as soon as possible.
- Any physical contact should be only the minimum required.
- Physical intervention must be used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.
- Physical intervention should not take place if there is a risk that the member of staff restraining the pupil will be hurt or injured.
- Another member of staff must be present if a pupil is being restrained.
- All incidents must be recorded and reported to the Headteacher as soon as possible.

### **Staff Guidance:**

When physical restraint becomes necessary:

#### **DO**

- Tell the pupil what you are doing and why.
- Use the minimum force necessary.
- Involve another member of staff.
- Tell the pupil what s/he must do for you to remove the restraint (this may need frequent repetition).
- Use simple and clear language.
- Hold limbs above a major joint if possible e.g. above the elbow.
- Relax your restraint in response to the pupil's compliance.

#### **DON'T**

- Act in temper (involve another staff member if you fear loss of control).
- Involve yourself in a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil.
- Involve other pupils in the restraint.
- Touch or hold the pupil in a way that could be viewed as sexually inappropriate conduct.
- Twist or force limbs back against a joint.
- Bend fingers or pull hair.
- Hold the pupil in a way which will restrict blood flow or breathing e.g. around the neck.
- Slap, punch, kick or trip up the pupil.
- Use physical restraint or intervention as a punishment.

**Policy Written:** September 2017

**Policy Review:** September 2019