

Trevithick Learning Academy



Positive Handling Policy

Introduction:

This policy is based on guidance outlined in the DfE Guidance - *'Use of Reasonable Force – Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies'*. The guidance refers to the Education Act 1996 and Education and Inspections Act 2006 which clarify the position regarding teachers and other staff working in schools, to control or restrain pupils. Staff should also refer to the school policy on behaviour management.

Rationale:

At Trevithick we believe that the use of reasonable force is only necessary to prevent pupils from:

- Injuring themselves or others;
- Leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- Causing significant damage to property including their own;
- Engaging in behaviour at school or on school activities / visits which is prejudicial to the welfare of the pupils or staff.

School procedure:

Definition: Physical Restraint is the use of force to control or restrain pupils.

The use of restraint should always be the last resort. If practical, before intervention, a calm warning or instruction to stop should be given and every effort should be made to achieve a satisfactory outcome without physical intervention. **In all circumstances help must be sent for at the earliest opportunity, even when immediate intervention is necessary.** Restraint can take a variety of forms – many of which are outlined in the DfE guidelines outlined above. Staff should always avoid touching / holding a pupil in a way that might be considered inappropriate.

Reasonable force should not be used for trivial misdemeanours and should always be proportionate to the circumstances of the incident. It must therefore be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result. In any action due regard has to be taken to the age, understanding and sex of the pupil. Wherever possible any form of restraint will be undertaken by staff trained in 'Team Teach' in line with the LA guidance for staff.

The school accepts and understands that in accordance with the law corporal punishment is forbidden.

Where restraint has been necessary, the incident must be reported to the Headteacher and logged in the school's 'Team Teach Incident Report Book'. Parents of all pupils involved will always be

advised of the incident and it may be necessary for it to be followed up by disciplinary or pastoral support.

The following staff are team teach trained: Nicola Garge, Amber Wallace, Louise Symons, Claire Jones, Gaynor Symons, Jazmin Dale and Daniel Mee.

Reminder to staff do's and dont's.

Do...

- Know the procedures within the schools guidelines for the use of physical restraint.
- Discuss these with a senior member of staff if you are unsure of any point.
- Be aware of pupils who have been restrained before and what happened.
- Make another adult aware (Team Teach) early if things begin to get out of hand and restraint seems likely.
- Assess the situation before acting.
- Stay calm – do not over react.
- Use minimal restraint for minimal time.
- Report the incident to the Headteacher or senior member of staff as soon as possible and complete a report form.
- Consult your Professional Association or Trade Union if you have any concerns.
- Remember your professional obligations to all pupils in your care.

Do not...

- Place yourself at risk: do not attempt to restrain a pupil who obviously carries a weapon.
- Attempt to restrain a pupil when you have lost your temper.
- Allow the situation to get out of control.
- Use excessive force.
- Place yourself at risk of allegation by being alone with a pupil without the knowledge of another member of staff – refer to guidance in the Safeguarding Handbook and 'Guidance for Safe Working Practice for Adults Working in Education Settings'.

Signed by Headteacher:

Date:

Signed by Chair of governors:

Date:

To be reviewed: Spring 2016