

Woolton High School

Safe Handling Policy 2021-22

The ethos of the school is based upon good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils which includes:

- Violent behaviour directed towards another person will not be tolerated in school.
- Minimal physical restraint (reasonable force) may be used by staff members to control or restrain pupils in accordance with this policy.
- Physical contact must never be used to punish, cause pain, injure or humiliate any pupil in school.
- Try to diffuse aggressive behaviour through calm reasoning and 'escape route' options that allow the child the opportunity to learn to deal with their own conflicts appropriately and exercise self-control.
- In many cases, time and/or distance from the child could be much more productive behaviour management techniques than physical contact and restraint.
- The school will support members of staff who act professionally and within the boundaries of these guidelines if a situation arises where physical restraint is absolutely necessary and unavoidable.
- Occasionally, when all other alternative techniques have been or cannot be used, staff may need to use physical restraint to avoid violence or danger. Restraint of a pupil should only be used when a pupil is:
 - a) Causing or threatening to cause damage to property.
 - b) Causing or threatening to cause personal injury to any person (including the pupil himself).
 - c) Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

In any of these instances, the child should be clearly warned that you are likely to take physical action to ensure safety, limit damage to property or ensure the order of the school. Wherever possible, staff should have present or send for another member of staff to witness the restraint (this is good professional practice).

In every case, the minimum possible force and the shortest period of time should be used to achieve the necessary objective.

All pupils, parents and carers are made aware of the school's use of physical intervention techniques prior to admission to aid their decision-making progress regarding choice of school for their child.

All physical interventions should be recorded on the school's electronic '**Behaviour Watch**' system and written up as a '**Minor**' intervention where minimal contact has been required (such as an escort whilst holding a child's wrist), or a '**Major**' restraint, where more force was required in proportion to the level of risk presented by the child.

Any visible marks sustained in any physical intervention must be recorded on a skin map in the incident book. Any injury sustained by a pupil during a restraint must be reported to a parent/carer by a senior member of school staff. Incident report and restraint checklists should be completed as soon as reasonably possible and the matter reported to a Senior Manager.

All members of staff receive Safeguarding induction training upon entry to the school. This training includes explicit guidance in relation to the use of physical intervention at the school.

Any adult who is not trained in Safe Handling techniques, but becomes involved in a situation where physical intervention has become unavoidable will have the support of the **SMT** at school providing the amount of force used is minimal, appropriate and reasonable, but that adult must recognise that they do so at their own risk.

All Teaching staff received Safe handling update training September 2021

This policy was agreed in September 2021

This policy will be reviewed in September 2022