



Positive Handling Policy Covid-19 Addendum September 2020

Review Body:	Governing Body
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Reviewed:	
Approved by:	Abi Gilbert
Next Review:	In line with any changes to public health guidance



Positive Handling Policy Addendum

This addendum should be read in conjunction with the first aid policy covid-19 addendum, the intimate care policy covid-19 addendum and the school risk assessments.

The positive handling policy gives clear guidance on the use of physical contact in school to support staff to meet the needs of children with confidence whilst safeguarding themselves and those in their care.

In the policy it states:

“Physical contact is necessary and justifiable when it meets the needs of pupils.”

In response to the covid-19 pandemic, adjustments have been made to how we work in school to support social distancing and therefore mitigate any risk of transmission within our schools. Alternative ways of working that do not involve greeting pupils with physical contact or demonstrating equipment or exercises with physical contact have been put in place. Staff must have regard to the risk assessments when interacting with pupils and will therefore need to adapt physical contact in light of the risk assessments in place. Where physical contact does need to take place, for example, to administer first aid then additional mitigation of risks is in place. These are outlined in the appropriate policies and addendums. Where a pupil is in distress, staff will take necessary precautions when comforting the pupil, such as standing side-by-side and ensuring distance is maintained through height difference and thinking about positioning to avoid face-to-face contact.

Alternatives to physical interventions used to divert a pupil from destructive or disruptive action will also be sought, such as distraction or humour (where appropriate).

On the very rare occasions that there may be a risk to pupils, staff or property or if good order is being seriously prejudiced, in the policy it states: “Restrictive Physical intervention will only be used as an appropriate last resort.” This remains the case. All other options will be explored prior to using restrictive physical intervention and restrictive physical intervention will only be used if a pupil is putting themselves or others in danger. Where they are putting others in danger, removing others from the danger will be explored as a priority rather than removing the child where this is possible.

Staff trained in restrictive physical intervention will have a pack with a face mask (fluid resistant surgical mask) and some goggles which they will, where possible, put on prior to intervening. Where appropriate staff will explain to the child why they are wearing a face mask and the goggles so as to reduce any possible increased distress.

All incidents of physical intervention will be reported immediately to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. A report will be written of the incident and will include details of any additional risk linked to covid-19. Where necessary, advice will be sought from the Public Health team.

Where a pupil is known to show behaviours that could result in the need for physical intervention, this pupil will have a positive handling plan in place. This positive handling plan will include additional details for the mitigation of risks linked to covid-19 specific to the individual child.

Where a pupil requires physical intervention for the first time, a positive handling plan will be put in place following this first incident.