

# **CAUSEWAY GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## **Physical Intervention Policy**

**Reviewed: October 2017**

**Next review: October 2019**

## **VISION**

The behaviour policy at Causeway Green primary School is designed to prevent physical incidents from occurring. Our vision is to create a calm, well-ordered and secure atmosphere is the best insurance against incidents of aggressive confrontations.

## **AIMS**

**All staff and pupils at Causeway Green Primary School have a right to:**

- be treated with respect and dignity;
- work in a safe and healthy environment and be protected from harm;
- receive adequate information, support and training.

**All staff and pupils at Causeway Green Primary School should:**

- follow the School's code of conduct, rules and policies.

**Parents of pupils attending Causeway Green Primary School have a right to:**

- expect staff to undertake their duties and responsibilities in accordance with school policies;
- have access to school rules, policies and expected conduct for all;
- be informed of the service's complaints procedure.

## **INTRODUCTION**

This policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils within Causeway Green Primary School. It is designed to explain the school's arrangements for care and control. This policy has been developed in response to the recommendations of 'The use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils' issued following the implementation of the Education Act 1996 (Section 550A) and the 'Use of Reasonable Force, Advice for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies' (July 2013).

## **PURPOSE**

Good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure good order at our school. It is recognised that the majority of pupils at Causeway Green Primary School respond positively to the discipline and control practiced by staff. This ensures the well being and safety of all pupils and staff within the school. It is also acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, staff may need to take action in situations where the use of reasonable force is required. Physical restraint is applied as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allowing the pupil to regain self-control. It never takes a form which could be seen as punishment. This policy seeks to ensure that the staff group at Causeway Green Primary School clearly understands their responsibilities in taking appropriate measures where reasonable force is required.

## **APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT**

Causeway Green Primary School staff members have a responsibility to act at all times in a manner which reflects positively on their professional status. Whilst it is recognised that there are situations in which appropriate physical contact occurs in the school setting between staff and pupils, it must be understood that to undertake any form of physical control places staff in a vulnerable situation. It can only be justified according to those circumstances described in this policy. Staff therefore, have a responsibility to seek alternative strategies *whenever possible/appropriate* in order to prevent the need for physical intervention.

## **Reasonable force may only be used when it is necessary to prevent a pupil from:**

- Putting themselves or others at risk of harm;
- Causing serious damage to property;
- Committing a criminal offence (e.g. criminal damage, assault of pupils/staff etc)
- Engaging in any behaviour (including running around inside/outside the building and absconding) which is prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in the classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere and; **where no other form of control is available and where it is necessary to intervene.**

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate. Trained staff will exercise their own professional judgment in situations which arise within the above categories. Physical intervention will only ever be used as a last resort when all other appropriate strategies have failed. The physical contact used will only ever be the minimum required. Any physical intervention is used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned. Incidents are recorded and reported to the headteacher and parents are informed of each incident.

## **AUTHORISED STAFF**

All staff at Causeway Green Primary School are authorised, within the content of this policy and the legal position indicated above, in a serious emergency, to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils. However, in anything other than a serious emergency, only **MAPA trained** staff should use the restraint techniques they have been trained for. The Headteacher is responsible for making clear who those staff members are and in what circumstances and settings they may use force, and for what duration of time this authorisation will last. The Headteacher will ensure that those authorised are aware of, and understand properly, what the authorisation entails.

## **TRAINING SUPPORT**

It is the duty of the CPD lead (DHT) to ensure adequate training is provided for all staff in order to operate this policy. Responsibility for coordinating this training and ensuring staff attend renew their training will be the responsibility of the CPD lead (DHT). **Staff attend an appropriate Positive Options, BILD (British Institute of Learning Disabilities) accredited, MAPA (Management of Actual or Potential Aggression)** training course that provides staff with a range of proactive and reactive physical intervention strategies which enable them to work more effectively with individuals who present with aggressive and violent behaviour, using therapeutic holding. Members of staff will not be expected to undertake the use of reasonable force without knowledge of the school's policy. New staff will be fully briefed prior to authorising their participation. Training will include clarification of the circumstances when physical intervention should be used. Staff involved in incidents of physical intervention will be offered the opportunity to access personal support, including counselling, at their request to the Headteacher.

## **RECORDING and REPORTING**

As soon as is reasonably practicable, following an incident where reasonable force has been used, the member of staff involved will inform the Headteacher or deputy following this up with a written incident report in line with Causeway Green Primary School's behaviour policy. Causeway Green Primary school will keep an up to date record of all incidents where reasonable force has been used on a school behaviour tracking sheet. All Parents/Carers and where appropriate social workers will be informed as soon as practicable. If the behaviour is part of an ongoing pattern, the situation may need to be further addressed through an individual intervention of behaviour plan and advice sought from the Sandwell Inclusion Support team.

## **RISK ASSESSMENTS**

If the school becomes aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a disruptive way that may require the use of reasonable force, the school will assess any possible risks and plan how to prevent, limit and respond to possible situations that may arise. These plans may include;

- Identifying possible hazards.
- Identifying and avoiding possible triggers.
- Adjusting settings or school based activities.
- Providing a safe area for the pupil to regain control.
- Listing and agreeing strategies to be used prior physical intervention.
- Briefing of staff to ensure they know exactly what action should be taken and when.
- Identifying and assigning **MAPA trained** staff to support when needed.
- Regular meeting between school and home to involve parents.
- Procedure for supporting the pupil and staff after/if reasonable force was required.

**This policy should be read in conjunction with;**

- **Behaviour Policy**
- **Child Protection Policy**
- **SEND Policy**
- **Staff conduct Policy**