



Strood Academy

Positive Handling Policy

2023-2024

Date of Issue	July 2022
Date to be Revised	July 2023 July 2024

Positive handling Policy

Legal Position

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a student from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- committing any offence (or, for a student under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older student);
- causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student himself); prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any students receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

What do we mean by Positive Handling?

- No legal definition of reasonable force exists, however for the purpose of this policy and the implementation of it in the Academy: Positive Handling uses the minimum degree of force necessary for the shortest period of time to prevent a student harming himself, herself, others or property.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to make clear the position of the academy with regards to necessary physical interventions and to safeguard the well-being of students and staff when a situation or incident requires the use of physical intervention.

2. Physical Intervention and the Law

The law allows all adults who are authorised by the Principal to be responsible for students to use such force as is reasonable to prevent a student:

- a) Committing a criminal offence
- b) Causing personal injury, injury to others or damage to property
- c) Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline

Staff should not hesitate to act in these situations provided they follow this policy and the attached guidance; however, they should always satisfy themselves that the

action they take would be considered justifiable by a wider audience of their professional colleagues.

3. Definition of Terms

Handling – refers to any physical intervention applied by a member of staff where it is necessary to make physical contact with a student in order to manage their conduct or ensure their own or others safety. Handling strategies may be restrictive or non-restrictive and include shepherding, guiding, supporting, blocking, confining, holding and, in the most extreme cases, restraining.

Use of Reasonable Force – is the application of appropriate and proportionate force required to achieve the required outcome from the handling strategy employed (see above) without further endangering the student, member of staff or others present at the time of physical intervention.

Restraint - is the positive application of force in order to actively prevent a child from causing significant injury* to him/herself or others or seriously damaging property.

*Significant Injury would include: actual or grievous bodily harm, physical or sexual abuse, risking the lives of, or injury to, themselves or others by wilful or reckless behaviour, and self poisoning. It must be shown that on any occasion where physical restraint is used there were strong indicators that if immediate action had not been taken, significant injury would have followed.

4. Implementation of Physical Intervention:

All members of staff working with students at the academy are authorised to handle, use reasonable force or restrain students if/when such physical intervention is necessary. No member of staff is required to employ any physical intervention strategy if they are not comfortable or confident to do so effectively.

No member of staff should intervene physically if they have reason to believe that to do so would worsen the situation/incident that is taking place.

In all circumstances where physical intervention is or may become required members of staff should ensure that adult assistance is requested before intervention, although it is understood that circumstances may lead to the need for intervention prior to the assistance arriving.

Staff considering handling or use of reasonable force or restraint must provide opportunity for the student to alter their behaviour/actions before employing a physical intervention strategy and should continue to make instructions to the student and details of their intended interventions clear.

The method of physical intervention employed must use the minimum reasonable force for the minimum length of time

5. Recording Physical Intervention

All incidents where staff feel that they have used force to modify behaviour or conduct should be recorded(Strood academy google form).

Intervention Recording Forms are available from Claire Mexter and should be submitted to the Designated safeguarding lead and to Claire Mexter . The Principal will be informed of the intervention that has taken place.

It is the responsibility of the intervening member of staff to complete the record form on the day that the intervention took place. The circumstances and nature of the physical intervention will be held on the record of the student involved.

The DSL will inform any necessary agencies/authorities of the physical intervention in accordance with DFE and LA guidance. The Principal/Head of behaviour will ensure that parents/carers are appropriately informed.

For the safeguarding of both staff and student, any subsequent investigation of the situation/incident should be undertaken by a member of staff other than the one applying the physical intervention.

6. Searching Students(search, screening and confiscation)

[Searching, screening and confiscation](#)

On occasions a member of staff may have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student is in possession of an item or items which contravene academy regulations and could potentially cause harm to the student or others. Under these circumstances The Education Act 2011 extends the power of staff to search students without their consent. Any prohibited items found in pupils' possession will be confiscated. These items will not be returned to pupils. We will also confiscate any item which is harmful or detrimental to school discipline.

These items will be returned to pupils after discussion with senior leaders and parents, if appropriate. Searching and screening pupils is conducted in line with the DfE's latest guidance on searching, screening and confiscation.

Searches will be conducted by two members of staff, at least one of whom will be the same sex as the student. Strood academy does not endorse and will not undertake a physical search of any students' person.

Where necessary a student will be asked to remove his/her coat and/or blazer, empty all pockets, open their bags and in some circumstances remove their shoes and socks.

Possessions and items of apparel that have been removed may then be searched by the staff present. If undesirable items are discovered the academy will use its power of confiscation to retain the offending item(s).

Parents/carers, if not present, will be contacted to explain what has been found and any subsequent sanctions that have been applied.

Where appropriate, parents/carers will be invited to retrieve the offending property and asked to ensure that they are not brought to school again. In the event that illegal items are discovered then the Police will be informed.