



## Woodside Primary School

### Positive Handling Policy and Procedures

**September 2021**

We are committed to creating futures for all in a welcoming and supportive learning environment, in which all pupils feel valued and challenged to be resilient thinkers, active learners with transferable skills and have an appetite for world learning. At Woodside Primary School all pupils are valued, inspired and respected within our happy, welcoming family.

We set high expectations for all our pupils. Practitioners give every pupil the opportunity to experience success in their learning, by providing a relevant and challenging curriculum with an emphasis on personalised learning.

All children have unique experiences to share. Across the trust we celebrate this diversity by valuing the contribution of all pupils and providing a learning environment that encourages interdependence.

**Our trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting welfare of children and expects staff to share this commitment.**

At Woodside Primary School there are certain circumstances when we feel that children require close physical contact, not involving restraint.

These circumstances are as follows-

- When a child is distressed and requires comfort.
- When a child requires calming to ensure continued self-control.
- When a child has been injured and requires first-aid.
- When a child requires encouragement in either educational or social situations, physical prompting may be used.
- As positive reinforcement for effort or achievement.
- As a greeting on arrival and departure from school.
- In response to show of affection from a child.
- Children engaged in an argument may be effectively separated by being guided away.

## **Close Physical Contact**

- Holding the hand.
- A gentle touch to the hand, arm or shoulder of the child.
- An arm around the shoulder of the child.
- A hug or a cuddle, like any responsible, caring parent might give their child.

We are aware that some children may be uncomfortable with close physical contact and this should be respected, therefore this level of contact would only happen with the full agreement of the child or parent.

## **Positive Handling**

- At Woodside Primary School, positive handling is used as a last resort, where other strategies prove ineffective and only when the behaviour of the child is deemed to be a danger to him/herself, to other children, adults or where serious danger to school property is likely to ensue.
- We use positive handling as an act of care and control, using the minimum amount of force; the aim being to allow the child to regain control as quickly as possible.
- Wherever possible [staffing levels allowing] 2 members of staff will be present during an incident to ensure the safety of the child and the staff.
- Where possible the members of staff who carry out positive handling will have had Positive Handling Training.
- Any incident of positive handling is recorded as soon as possible after the event and includes information such as the date, time, place and those involved and action taken during and after the incident and given to the head teacher, deputy or other senior teacher.
- A child who has been held is always spoken to as soon as he/she is calm, on why it was necessary to hold him/her.
- In the event of a child having to be positively handled, we will inform parents/carers as soon as is reasonably possible either in person, by telephone or other means.
- In the event of a serious incident, parent/carers may be contacted and asked to take their child home and / or attend a meeting to discuss possible action required.
- In the event that parent/carers are unhappy or worried about such an incident, they are encouraged to take this up with the head teacher in the first instance.
- Parents are asked to read and discuss the above policy with the head teacher if they have any concerns.



# Positive Handling Incident Form

Name: ..... Class: ..... Date: .....

Time of Incident: ..... Location: .....

Adults present: .....

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## Record of Incident

Was the child liable to injury? Yes / No

Were other children liable to injury? Yes / No

Were staff liable to injury? Yes / No

Was property about to be damaged? Yes / No

Was good order prejudiced? Yes / No

Other Reason.....

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Parent / carer informed of incident:- Telephone call / letter /in person / text / e-mail

Child collected from school Yes / No Time: .....

By Whom: .....

Head Teacher / Deputy Head / Assistant Head: ..... Date: .....

