



St Francis Catholic Primary School

POSITIVE HANDLING

Policy

Positive Handling Policy
Head Teacher Approval
Ratified: February 2024
Review: February 2025

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Francis School strives to provide a broad, balanced and relevant Catholic education in which we recognise, through mutual respect, that Christ is in everyone.

Designated Staff and Procedure

The legal framework states that any member of the teaching staff can use positive handling to restrain pupils when the situation warrants such an action. Our aim at St Francis Catholic Primary School is not to use these powers. We will only do so in the most extreme cases, where we deem it unavoidable.

Objectives

Good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure good order in our school. It is recognised that most pupils in our school respond positively to the school's Positive Behaviour Policy. This ensures the well-being and safety of all pupils and staff in school.

It is also acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, staff may need to act in situations where the use of reasonable, proportionate, and necessary force may be required.

St Francis School acknowledges that physical techniques are only a small part of a whole setting approach to behaviour management.

Every effort will be made to ensure that all staff in this school:

1. Clearly understanding this policy and their responsibilities in the context of their duty of care in taking appropriate measures where use of force is necessary.
2. Are provided with appropriate training to deal with these difficult situations.
- 3.

Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether the behaviour occurs in a classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere within school (this includes authorised out-of-school activities).

Dfe Use of reasonable force states:

Schools can use reasonable force to:

- remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so
- prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit
- prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others
- prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground

- restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

Use of Physical Handling

For the purpose of this policy and the implementation of it in St Francis Catholic Primary Positive Handling uses the minimum degree of force necessary for the shortest period to prevent a pupil harming himself, herself, others or property.

The scale and nature of any physical intervention must be proportionate to both the behaviour of the individual to be controlled, and the nature of the harm they might cause.

If this was unsuccessful and the situation continues to escalate, staff would then be expected to request support from a colleague who has received training in the last 3 years.

All the techniques used take account of the young person's

- Age
- Gender
- Level of physical, emotional and intellectual development
- Special needs
- Social context

Minimising the Need to Use Force

At St Francis Catholic Primary School, we constantly strive to create a calm environment that minimises the risk of incidents arising that might require the use of force. In addition to this, pupils who present with persistent challenging behaviour are provided with appropriate support as appropriate to their individual needs.

Pupils who have issues relating to sensory dysfunction or other conditions that may result in increased anxiety levels, and therefore an increase in the likelihood of challenging behaviour, may have individualised support or programmes to help them to manage this.

Through our Ethos, Mission Statement, Catholic Values, Five Golden Rules, and Curriculum pupils learn about feelings and managing conflict.

All staff are trained in skills to help them to defuse situations before behaviour becomes challenging and how to de-escalate incidents should they arise. Reasonable force will only be used when the risks involved in doing so, are outweighed by the risks involved in not using force.

Telling parents when force has been used on their child

St Francis Catholic Primary school will inform parents about serious incidents involving the use of force and will record the incident on CPOMS.

A list of all staff trained in Positive Handling is in Appendix A.

Appendix A.

Staff trained in Positive Handling on 05.09.2023:

- Mrs A Allen
- Mrs B Crick
- Mrs C Kohler
- Mrs C Aldridge
- Mr C Whatley
- Mrs C Hanger
- Mrs C Decelis
- Mrs E MacNeill
- Mrs Martinez-Goya
- Mrs F Lane
- Mrs K Hoolan
- Mrs K Williams
- Mrs L Neal
- Mrs L Ringshaw
- Mrs N Matthew
- Mr R Maxfield
- Ms S Kent
- Ms T Swan
- Mrs T VanBommel

Next Training Course:

Positive Handling for Schools Refresher course advised for September 2025.