



KENSINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SAFEHANDLING POLICY

Physical Intervention Policy

We aim to help children take responsibility for their own behaviour through a combination of approaches which include:

- Positive role modelling
- Planning a range of interesting and challenging activities
- Setting and enforcing appropriate boundaries and expectations
- Providing positive feedback

What is the definition

Positive handling is the following:

- Giving guidance to children (e.g. how to hold a paintbrush or when climbing)
- Providing emotional support (e.g. placing an arm around a distressed child)
- Physical care (e.g. first aid or toileting)

Use of Reasonable Force

School staff can use reasonable force to prevent damage or injury to the child or another child or staff. At number of staff have completed training in 'Positive Handling ' to address the issue of using reasonable force as and when necessary.

What can we do as a school?

- Includes mechanical and environmental means (e.g. locked doors or gates)
Restrictive physical intervention
- Physical force is used intentionally to restrict a child's movement against his or her will. This is usually through the use of the adult's body rather than mechanical or environmental methods.

Principles

1. Positive behaviour management approaches. Restrictive physical handling is used in the context of positive behaviour management techniques. Restrictive physical handling is only used in extreme circumstances. We aim to do all we can to avoid using restrictive physical intervention.
2. Restrictive physical handling is only used when we believe its use is in the child's best interests i.e. their needs is paramount.
3. Duty of care, everyone working at Kensington Primary school has a duty of care towards the children in our setting. When children are in danger of hurting themselves or others or of causing significant damage to property we have a responsibility to intervene which may involve the use of restrictive physical handling.
4. Reasonable minimal force. We will use as little restrictive force as necessary in order to maintain safety and for as short a time as possible.

Use of restrictive physical intervention (RPI)

Restrictive physical intervention can be justified when:

- Someone is injuring themselves or others
- Someone is damaging property
- There is suspicion that although injury, damage or other crime have not yet happened it might do.

Duty of care means that we may use restrictive physical intervention if a child is trying to leave the site and we judge the child to be at risk. We will also use other measures such as securing the site and ensuring adequate staffing levels. This duty of care also extends away from Kensington Primary school when we are in charge of children off site (e.g. when out for walks or on outings).

There may be occasions when RPI is justified but we judge it may make the situation worse. In that instance we would not use it but would use some other method consistent with our duty of care (e.g. issue an instruction to stop, seek help, or make

the area safe). The aim in using RPI is to restore safety to the child and to those around him/her.

Who can use RPI?

All members of staff who are in regular contact with the children may use RPI. In an emergency anyone can use RPI providing it is consistent with our policy.

What type of RPI can be used?

Any physical intervention we use is consistent with the principle of reasonable minimal force. Where it is judged that RPI is necessary we will:

- Aim for side-by-side contact with the child.
- Aim for no gap between the adult's and the child's body where they are side by side.
- Aim to keep the adult's back as straight as possible
- Beware of head positioning (to avoid head butts from the child)
- Hold children by the long bones (to avoid pain and damage to joints)
- Ensure there is no restriction to the child's ability to breathe (in particular avoiding holding a child around the chest cavity or stomach)
- Try to avoid lifting children.

We never use seclusion, i.e. send children out of the room on their own. We do not use RPI to bring children to or hold them in time out

Planning

In an emergency we will do our best within our duty of care and with the use of reasonable minimal force. After such an emergency we will review the situation and plan future responses based on risk assessment. This will consider the following listed below:

- What the risks are
- Who is at risk and how
- What can be done to manage the risk

This risk assessment can be used to draw up an individual behaviour plan outlining

- An understanding of what the child is trying to achieve or communicate through their behaviour.
- How the environment can be adapted to better meet the child's needs
- How the child can be taught and encouraged to use new, more appropriate behaviours
- How staff will respond when the child's behaviour is challenging (responsive strategies)

When we know that an individual child's behaviour is likely to need RPI we will seek the views of all those working with the child from within the setting and visiting support staff. Above all we will work closely with the child's parents/carers and keep them fully informed.

Recording and reporting

Any use of RPI will be recorded on Safeguard as soon as possible. If necessary it will also be recorded in the accident/incident record book. We will inform the child's parents/carers on the day of the incident. The number of incidents recorded will be regularly reported to the LAB.

Supporting and reviewing

The use of RPI is distressing to all those involved – the person doing it, the child and his/her parents/carers or someone observing. After an incident we give support to the child so that he/she can understand why they were held when the child is calm enough to understand. The staff reporting the incident to the parents will spend time explaining the situation and agreeing a way forward. Support is given by the most appropriate member of the staff team to the adults who were involved either actively or as observers. After an incident support to repair any potential strain to the relationship between the child and the adult who restrained him/her. We will consider reviewing any individual behaviour plan so that the risk of needing to use RPI again is reduced.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed at least every 3 years. Monitoring the use of RPI will help to identify trends and therefore help develop Kensington Primary school's ability to meet the needs of children without using RPI. This is the responsibility of the SLT reporting to the LAB.

Complaints

The use of RPI can lead to allegations of inappropriate or excessive use. If anyone (child, parent/carers, member of staff or visitor) has a concern we will deal with it through our complaints procedure.

Policy Date: April 2021

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