**Downs Infant School**



**Physical Management Policy**

**March 2019**

**To be read in conjunction with our Behaviour Policy**

**Philosophy**

Downs Infant School promotes a learning environment where everyone enjoys and achieves. We are committed to ensuring that pupils, staff and visitors are able to work in a safe, supportive and caring environment, free from violence and disruption. However, we also recognise that the children in our school are very young, and are still learning and developing. We also recognise that some children will need more support than others to be able to behave in appropriate and safe ways, because of their special educational needs or disabilities or because of their personal circumstances. We aim to support these children to develop appropriate behaviours while keeping them and others safe.

Downs Infant School does not advocate the use of physical restraint of pupils but recognises that there are rare circumstances when its use may be necessary. Where physical management of pupils is used it will be:

* As an act of care, not punishment
* As a last resort when all other reasonable strategies have proved ineffective or impracticable
* With the minimum force necessary and such that the degree and duration of force is proportionate to the circumstances
* Conducted in a manner which maintains as far as possible the dignity of all concerned.

**The Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention**

Under the Education Act 1996, all members of school staff, representatives from outside agencies and volunteers are permitted to use reasonable physical force only to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

* Committing a criminal offence
* Injuring themselves or others
* Causing damage to property (including a pupil’s own property)
* Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline in the school.

Where a child is judged at risk of requiring regular physical intervention, for example, due to a special educational need, this should be done where possible by trained members of staff, currently the Headteacher and one of the SEN team.

Physical intervention may take several forms within ‘reasonable force’, for which there is no legal definition and therefore will always depend on the circumstances of the case. It may involve:

* Physically interposing between pupils
* Blocking a pupil’s path
* Holding
* Leading a pupil by the arm
* Guiding a pupil by placing a hand in the centre of their back or on their shoulder

Staff should always be able to justify the intervention they have made and it should follow every attempt to defuse or de-escalate the situation including:

* Summoning the assistance of another member of staff for a ‘change of face’
* Speaking to and listening to the pupil
* Diverting, cajoling or persuading the pupil
* Distracting the pupil
* Reasoning and offering choices
* Supporting the pupil to regulate
* Removing other pupils from the area

Staff will need to make professional judgements about the physical contact they make with pupils, either during physical management or in other contexts such as first aid and must ensure they take every effort to ensure that innocent actions are not misconstrued. Staff should also have regard for cultural sensitivities and the needs of particular pupils, for example those who may have experienced abuse.

**Recording Incidents**

Any incidents should be recorded on CPOMS as soon as possible following the event, and verbally to the Headteacher if she is in school, otherwise to the Deputy Headteacher.

Reports should include:

* The name of pupil(s) involved
* Where are when the incident took place
* The name of any witnesses to the incident
* The reason physical intervention was necessary
* The type of intervention used
* How long it was used for
* Details of how the incident began, developed and was resolved
* Details of any injury suffered by any party or damage to any property.

Parents/carers should be informed on the day of the incident.

**Monitoring of Incidents**

Incidents will be monitored by the Headteacher and SENCo for any patterns requiring attention, for example further training for staff or referrals and behaviour plans for pupils.

**Complaints**

Complaints following a dispute about the use of force by an adult should, in the first instance, be directed to the Headteacher. This will generally result in an investigation, which will take account of the written and verbal reports that have been collected. Where a dispute cannot be resolved, complaints will be pursued in accordance with the school complaints policy.