



# Positive Handling Policy

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## **What is Positive Handling?**

Positive Handling can be known as physical intervention and is the positive application of force for the purpose of overcoming a child's resistance. At Haylands Primary School we use the MAYBO technique.

MAYBO is a company at the forefront of positive handling and risk reduction training. Wherever there is a potential for behaviour of concern, MAYBO seeks to reduce the risk and promote positive and safer concerns.

## **When is Positive Handling used?**

Positive Handling will only be used under the following circumstances:

- When preventing physical harm or threatened harm to self and others
- Preventing a child from running away or escaping
- Preventing damage to property
- Removing a child from the classroom if causing disruption and distress to other children

Positive Handling is used as a last resort after all other steps have been exhausted, using strategies laid out in the school's behaviour policy and through the use of the MAYBO's techniques as identified in the modules "Positive Approaches to Behaviour" and "De-escalation Skills".

## **Types of Positive Handling used**

There are two types of Positive Handling.

### **Non-Restrictive Handling**

Non-restrictive handling is concerned with assisting a child to walk away from a situation with the use of guiding. There are three levels of guiding - Shepherding, Cradle Guide and Hook and Cradle Guide.

### **Restrictive Handling**

Restrictive handling is the use of physical contact to remove or control a child's behaviour if there is a real risk of harm to themselves, peers, adults or property.

## Training

The school has one member of staff trained as a MAYBO instructor – Katrina Shaer (Positive Approaches to Behaviour, De-escalation Skills, Personal Safety and Guiding, Safer Holding)

Training to all staff in school will be completed at a level appropriate for the staff's role. Additional training may occur mid-year if the need arises. Termly updates and refreshers will ensure all staff maintain their working knowledge of the de-escalation skills.

## Recording

- All incidents of positive handling are recorded on CPOMS and EDUKEY. This online form will be completed in collaboration with a MAYBO trainer
- The form is to be completed fully detailing, what was happening prior to the incident and what risk reduction techniques were used prior to any form of positive handling be it restrictive or non-restrictive being used
- The family of the child will be informed by the duty DSL after the use of Positive Handling and the conversations are to be recorded on the form
- A restorative interview is to be conducted with the child and the adult involved, ensuring any injuries are noted

## Reasonable Force

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force.

This power applies to any member of staff at the school. It can also apply to people whom the Head Teacher has temporarily put in charge of children such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying children on a school organised visit.

### When can reasonable force be used?

Reasonable force can be used to prevent children from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.

The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the

individual circumstances. When reasonable force should be used is covered in the MAYBO training sessions.

Schools can use reasonable force to:

- To prevent a child from committing a violent or aggressive act
- To prevent a child from causing injury to themselves
- To prevent a child from causing injury to peers
- To prevent a child from causing injury to adults
- To prevent a child from causing damage to property
- To prevent a child from causing serious disruption
- To prevent a child from running away