

Positive Handling and De-escalation Policy

Corringham CE Primary School

Review Date: September 2026

Responsible Person: Headteacher / DSL

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the approach of Corringham CE Primary School to managing behaviour through de-escalation and, where necessary, the use of positive handling.

It is written in line with guidance from the Department for Education and expectations of Ofsted and sits beside our Relational Behaviour Policy.

The school is committed to ensuring the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of all pupils and staff.

2. Aims

- To promote a safe and supportive environment
- To minimise the need for physical intervention
- To ensure staff act lawfully and safely
- To protect pupils and staff through clear procedures and recording

3. Principles

- De-escalation strategies must always be used first
- Physical intervention is a last resort
- Any intervention must be reasonable, proportionate, and necessary
- The least restrictive option should always be used
- Respect for the child's dignity must be maintained at all times

4. When Positive Handling May Be Used

Reasonable force may be used to:

- Prevent a child from harming themselves or others
- Prevent serious damage to property
- Prevent a child committing an offence
- Maintain good order and discipline within the school

5. Use of Physical Intervention

- Only staff trained in positive handling should use physical intervention
- Approved techniques must be in line with training received
- Staff must avoid any action that could cause pain, injury, or humiliation
- Intervention must stop as soon as the risk has reduced

6. Recording and Reporting

All incidents involving physical handling must be recorded, on CPOMs as soon as possible. (same day)

Records must include:

- Date, time, and location
- Names of those involved
- A factual account of what happened
- Reason for intervention
- Actions taken and outcome
- Any injuries or follow-up actions

Incidents must be reported to the Headteacher or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL).

The school is committed to open and transparent communication with parents and carers.

Parents/carers will normally be informed when:

- An incident involving positive handling results in injury or distress
- There has been a significant behavioural incident requiring intervention

However, it is recognised that:

- Not all low-level interventions or brief physical guidance require parental notification
- Minor or routine interventions that form part of everyday behaviour support may not be reported individually

7. Safeguarding

All incidents are considered within the school's safeguarding responsibilities.

Concerns must be reported in line with the school's safeguarding procedures and shared with the Headteacher or DDSL.

All records will be stored securely and treated as confidential.

8. Staff Responsibilities

Staff are expected to:

- Follow this policy and their training at all times
- Use de-escalation strategies wherever possible
- Record and report incidents promptly
- Reflect on incidents to support future practice

9. Monitoring and Review

The Senior Leadership Team will monitor incidents of positive handling.

This policy will be reviewed annually or following any serious incident.