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EYFS Physical Handling Policy

Rationale

In line with the School's Mission Statement we aim to help students develop their gifts and talents: spiritual and social; intellectual and emotional; aesthetic and physical through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum, which is responsive to, and supportive of, their needs and aspirations, fosters intellectual curiosity and academic achievement, and motivates them to grow to their full potential. Our Mission Statement is distilled into our Vision Statement, and our aim is to develop our children, pupils and students so that they have "Strength of Mind, Strength of Values, Strength of Purpose".

Introduction

At Ratcliffe College Nursery we are committed to creating a learning environment that promotes positive behaviour and relationships where children treat each other with care and respect. We are an inclusive setting and encourage all children to take responsibility for their own behaviour and consider the wellbeing of the children and staff around them.

In the Nursery, children's behaviour is managed effectively through the implementation of guidelines and rules given in the EYFS Behaviour Rewards and Sanctions Policy. This ensures that children's behaviour is dealt with in a manner that is appropriate for their stage of development and their own particular needs.

Under no circumstances are physical or corporal punishment ever used or threatened.

Definitions

There are three main types of physical intervention:

(1) Positive handling - The positive use of touch is a normal part of human interaction; it may be appropriate in a range of situations:

- giving guidance to children (e.g. holding a pencil correctly)
- providing emotional support
- physical care (e.g. first aid or toileting)

Our staff will always exercise appropriate care when using touch.

(2) Physical intervention - Physical intervention can include mechanical and environmental means such as high chairs, stair gates or locked doors; these are ways of ensuring a child's safety.

(3) Restrictive physical intervention - This is when a member of staff uses physical force intentionally to restrict a child's movement against his/her will reducing any risk of danger to themselves or another child or member of staff.

Principles for the Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention

- All our staff have a duty of care towards the children at Ratcliffe College Nursery. When children are in danger of hurting themselves, others or of causing significant damage to property, we have a responsibility to intervene. If appropriate, staff will divert a child or instruct them verbally to “stop”, however if they judge it necessary they will use restrictive physical intervention.
- Restrictive physical intervention will only be used in extreme circumstances and in the context of positive behaviour management approaches and when staff believe its use is in the child’s best interests and safety or that of other children.
- When physical intervention is used it is used within the principles of reasonable minimal force. The amount of force used will be in proportion to the circumstances.

When can Restrictive Physical Intervention be used?

Restrictive physical intervention can be justified when:

- A child is injuring themselves or others
- A child is damaging property
- There is suspicion that, although injury, damage or other crime has not yet happened, it is about to happen.

The aim in using restrictive physical intervention is to restore safety, both for the child and those around him or her. Restrictive physical intervention will never be used out of anger, as a punishment or as an alternative to measures which are less intrusive and which we judge would be effective.

Who can use Restrictive Physical Intervention?

Where possible a member of staff who knows the child best will be involved in using the restrictive physical intervention as this person is also most likely to be able to use other effective methods to keep this child safe. In an emergency, anyone can use restrictive physical intervention as long as it follows our policy.

If we have a child at Nursery whose behaviour means that there is a probable need to use restrictive physical intervention, it will, most often, be the child’s teacher who will be involved. Staff and children’s physical and emotional health will be considered when such plans are made. If additional training is required for staff, we will only use people who are accredited by BILD (British Institute of Learning Disabilities) and if needed will access refresher training.

What type of Restrictive Physical Intervention can and cannot be used?

- Aim for side by side contact with the child
- Aim for no gap between the adult’s and child’s body
- Beware of head positioning of the child to avoid head butts
- Hold children by “long” bones avoid joints
- Ensure there is no restriction in the child’s ability to breathe
- Avoid lifting children
- This intervention would never be used as seclusion or for time out.

Individual Behaviour Plans

Where it is thought that restrictive physical intervention may need to be used with a child, an Individual Behaviour plan will be written. The use of restrictive physical intervention will be just

one part of the whole approach to supporting a child's behaviour. Within this plan it will highlight:

- distraction strategies that will be used before any restrictive physical intervention, in order to minimise/take away needing the use of restrictive physical intervention
- where restrictive physical intervention is to be used
- care for the child after restrictive physical intervention has been used

If an emergency situation occurs and restrictive physical intervention is used for the first time with a child, a risk assessment form will be completed on the same day. This will identify the need for whether an Individual Behaviour Plan needs to be drawn up.

Recording and Reporting

Any use of restrictive physical intervention will be recorded, and this will be completed within 24 hours of the incident. It will include a risk assessment that will consider:

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

If necessary, details of the event will also be recorded in accident or incident books. Parents or carers of the child will be notified of an incident by a telephone call and invited in for a meeting on the same day. A letter outlining the event and the outcome will follow the face-to-face meeting. A written copy of the incident will be sent to the Headmaster of the College.

Supporting and Reviewing

We realise that distress can be caused to all those involved in an incident of restrictive physical intervention whether it be the people involved or people witnessing the event. After restrictive physical intervention has been given, support is given to the child so that they can understand why they were held. A record will be kept of how the child felt, where this is possible. Support will also be given to adults involved in the incident where they can talk and discuss what happened.

After a restrictive physical intervention, we will review the Individual Behaviour Plan so that the risk of needing to use restrictive physical intervention again is reduced.

Monitoring

Monitoring the use of restrictive physical intervention will help identify trends and therefore help develop our ability to meet the needs of the children without using restrictive physical intervention.

Where a child has an Individual Behaviour Plan a meeting will be held termly with parents to monitor children's progress. The outcome of these meetings will be recorded and a signature required from the parent or carer to confirm all the details.

Complaints

Any parent concerns should be dealt with through the Ratcliffe College complaints procedure.

Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Head of EYFS.