

ALTON COLLEGE NURSERY

HANDLING POLICY

This Policy sets out the framework for the use of reasonable force or positive handling and is only used as a last resort under-pinned by sound risk assessment. Only in the event of failure to bring control to the situation, or imminent danger to persons or other children should positive handling be considered.

Reasonable force would not include any of the following:-

- Holding a child around the neck, collar or other way that may restrict breathing.
- Slapping, punching, kicking or tripping a child. Holding or pulling a child by their hair or ear.
- Twisting or forcing limbs against joints.
- Indecently touching or holding.
- Holding a child face down on the ground.
- Lifting a child off the floor in order to intimidate.

In the event of restraint becoming necessary, before touching the child, the member of staff should advise the child calmly and repeatedly about what they are going to do and why, and how the child might change his/her behaviour, in order that the restraint would become unnecessary.

A second adult should be called to reduce the risk of the member of staff or child suffering bodily harm and as a witness if allegations of assault are made later.

While intervening, the member of staff must:-

- Employ minimum physical force necessary for the minimum period needed
- Wherever possible keep talking to the child and give choices as to how they could behave in a manner that would end the need for restraint
- Avoid committing any act of violence
- Keep his/her temper

Types of restraint which may be appropriate:-

- Any holding tactic in which a young child is restrained without injury until the young child calms down.
- Physical contact with a young person designed to control the young person's movements, which pose a danger, standing by the side of the young person is likely to minimise the risk to adult and young person.
- The holding of a young person's arms and legs to prevent/restrict striking/kicking.
- Physically preventing a young person from exposing themselves to possible danger by leaving the premises.

After the incident, it is vital that a full report is completed by all concerned.

Appropriate handling and inappropriate handling of children is discussed with all staff and students. Staff members who feel they cannot deal with a situation confidently should seek help from the manager or deputy.

All staff, students and volunteers should be aware and read this policy.

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