

## **ST ANNE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY**

#### **AIM / PURPOSE**

The main aim of the policy is to ensure that all staff have clear guidelines, are aware of their responsibilities and are able to ensure the safety of all pupils.

#### **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

The right of teachers to use reasonable force is laid down in the Education and Inspection Act, 2006. Legally, the guiding principle is that teachers may use a level of force proportionate to the possible consequences of a situation. If, for example, a pupil attacks another child, a member of staff is entitled to use greater force to stop them than if the child was just pulling the other child's hair. If physical intervention is used, it needs to be in a reasonable and not excessive way.

#### **PHYSICAL INTERVENTION AT ST ANNE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Staff need to ensure that all other means to de-escalate a situation have been used. If intervention is necessary, then a member of staff should send for support straight away: the more teachers/support staff who are present, the better. The member of staff involved should try to keep talking, in a calm voice, explaining what is happening and why. That way, it is clear to everyone that the teacher is in control. The incident should be recorded immediately afterwards. While using force can cause complications, so too can standing by and doing nothing, since the duty of care law requires a member of staff to do all that is reasonably expected to protect children's welfare.

Key points are as follows;

- It is unlawful to use force as a means of punishment.
- Teachers have a duty of care to pupils, but are not required to put their own safety at risk.
- Reasonable force may be used to prevent pupils injuring themselves or others or damaging property.
- Physical intervention may also be used to maintain good order and discipline. e.g. shepherding a child back to his or her work.
- Incidents where force is used should be recorded and parents informed, preferably by a 'phone call.
- We do not adopt a 'no-contact' policy.

#### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

This will involve key personnel including the Leadership Team, those with significant pastoral responsibility and representatives of the wider staff.

Changes to the policy will be the responsibility of the Governors' Personnel Committee and ratified by the Full Governing Body.

Date agreed:

Review date:

Signed: