



Positive Handling Policy

This policy was adopted by Governors at the meeting held on	2025
Signed (Chair of Governors):	Sir Alan Craft
Date of Review:	Autumn 2026

Statement of Intent

Embleton Vincent Edwards C of E Primary School believes that it is important to establish a safe, secure and stable environment to enable pupils to grow, develop and learn. To achieve this, the school recognises that, in certain circumstances, it may be necessary to use positive handling in order to maintain safety and manage levels of risk. This policy acknowledges that situations may arise in which staff members will be required to use positive handling, and in some cases reasonable force, in order to maintain safety and protect individuals from harm, when other measures have failed to do so.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that actions such as positive handling and reasonable force are used in a correct and safe manner, which is in accordance with the relevant legislation and national guidance.

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Education Act 2011
- The Children Act 1989
- The Equality Act 2010
- SEND Code of Practice 2014

This policy has due regard to the following guidance:

- DfE (2025) 'Use of reasonable force in schools' DfE
- DfE (2024) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- DfE (2025) 'Keeping children safe in education 2025'

- DfE Reducing the need for restraint & restrictive physical interventions (2019)

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

The **Academy Committee** is responsible for:

- Monitoring the overall implementation of this policy.
- Evaluating the incident data to analyse how and when positive handling is used and identify any trends to reduce the misuse and prevent abuse of positive handling.
- Reviewing this policy on an annual basis.

The **Headteacher** is responsible for:

- Ensuring all members of staff understand the correct conduct in terms of positive handling and are familiar with school policy.
- Maintaining positive handling logs (Appendix B) and reporting to the Academy Committee at the end of each term for monitoring and evaluation.
- Ensuring that any member of staff who uses positive handling completes the Positive Handling Report Form.
- Responding to any complaints, in liaison with the Academy Committee from pupils or parents regarding the use of positive handling.
- The headteacher will be responsible for conducting a thorough investigation to find out the details surrounding the incident; this may include talking to witnesses, including staff and pupils.

The **SENCo** is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff understand the additional vulnerability of pupils in school with SEND or medical conditions.
- Developing individual positive behaviour plans and Risk Assessments for pupils where applicable and ensuring all staff are aware of these.

The DSL is responsible for:

- Ensuring all members of staff use positive handling in accordance with this policy.
- Reviewing this policy in liaison with the headteacher and governing board.

What is Positive Handling?

For the purpose of this policy, 'positive handling' is the positive application of a restrictive physical intervention with the intention of maintaining safety of pupils and staff and limiting damage to property.

The legal framework and national guidance often refers to the 'use of force' - this policy uses the term 'positive handling' whenever possible.

There is no statutory definition of reasonable force; it will always depend on the circumstance of the case.

The decision to physically intervene during an incident is down to the professional judgement of the member of staff and always depends on the circumstances and level of risk.

Failure to positively handle a pupil who subsequently gets injured, or injures another pupil, could be deemed as negligent.

Positive handling will never be used as a substitute for good behavioural management in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Use of Positive Handling

All members of staff will be permitted to use reasonable force where they believe it to be appropriate in line with their training, as long as all necessary precautions are taken. The decision to physically intervene during a situation is down to the professional judgement of the member of staff and always depends on the circumstances and the pupil's individual needs.

The power to use reasonable force also applies to any individual whom the headteacher has identified as temporarily in charge, such as volunteers.

Staff members will use actions that are appropriate and in proportion to the circumstances. Physical restraint will never be used routinely. Where reasonable force is required, the degree and type of force that is used will depend on the pupil's circumstances, e.g. their age or SEND.

The school is able to use positive handling in situations such as, but not limited to:

- Restrain a pupil who has lost emotional self-control and is presenting an imminent or immediate risk to themselves or others.
- Reduce the risk of harm that a pupil is presenting to themselves or others.
- Disruptive children are required to be removed from the classroom for their safety and have previously refused to leave.
- Members of staff need to maintain the safety of pupils who may display challenging behaviour on school trips, or similar.
- Members of staff may need to prevent a pupil from leaving a classroom when doing so would lead to a risk to their safety.
- A pupil is physically aggressive or violent towards others.
- A pupil is at serious risk of harming themselves or others.

Where positive handling is required, the school will abide to the following guidance:

- The purpose will always be to maintain safety for all parties.
- Any positive handling will be limited to emergency situations and used only as a measure of last resort.
- It will be the least restrictive and for the least amount of time necessary to manage the risk presented.
- It will be reasonable and proportionate to the level of risk, taking into consideration the individual pupil's circumstances, including medical needs.
- Initial interventions will always focus on verbal de-escalation techniques, using the Thrive Approach 'Vital Relational Functions': attune; validate; contain; and regulate, in line with the behaviour policy.

Recording and Reporting Incidents

A written report will be produced for any incidents where positive handling is used. This will be completed within 48 hours of the incident on a Positive Handling Report Form.

Incidents involving the use of positive handling will always be reported to the headteacher at the earliest opportunity.

Parents/carers will be informed when there has been an incident involving the use of positive handling with their child. Staff will endeavour to inform the parent/carer verbally on the day of the incident.

Where reasonable force or physical restraint has been used, the pupil's parents will be informed as long as this would not place the pupil at greater risk. If the decision is made that the parents cannot

be informed as this would place the child at greater risk, a safeguarding referral will be made in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. The headteacher will make the final decision as to whether it is appropriate to inform the pupil's parents of the details of an incident. If it is appropriate, the following will be adhered to:

- Parents will be informed in writing and a copy of this report will be given to the member(s) of staff involved in the incident.
- The report will inform parents of their right to complain about the use of positive handling and reasonable force, in line with the Complaints Procedures Policy.

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects the use of reasonable force, where another member of staff is actively involved in physical intervention, they will report this to the headteacher immediately.

Any allegations against staff will be dealt with as a matter of urgency, and in accordance with the procedures outlined in the school's Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.

The headteacher will be responsible for conducting a thorough investigation to find out the correct details of what occurred; this may include talking to other pupils about the incident, for instance those who witnessed the event.

Where there is an incident that involves violence towards another person, it may be deemed necessary by the headteacher to inform external agencies such as, but not limited to, the Local Authority (LA) or the police where a crime has been committed.

Where necessary, an ANVIL form will be completed and reported to the LA.

Concerns and Complaints

Most complaints are best dealt with informally. If there are any concerns, the matter may be discussed with the child's teacher at the earliest opportunity, in line with our Complaints Policy.

Where a safeguarding allegation is made against a member of staff that involves physical contact, e.g. restraint, the strategy discussion or initial evaluation with the LADO will take into account that teachers and other school staff are entitled to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils in certain circumstances, including dealing with disruptive behaviour.

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Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher, DSL and Academy Committee, who will consider any necessary changes and communicate the findings of the review to all members of staff.

Appendix A:

Positive Handling Report Form

Record of the Use of Positive Physical Intervention/s

Name of pupil: _____ Teaching Group: _____

Date of incident: _____

Place/s incident occurred: _____

Reporting staff: _____

Other staff involved: _____

Other witnesses: Mum; parents and carers dropping pupil off.

Start time (please use 24hour clock): _____ End time: _____

Day of week: _____

Staffing for lesson: (initials) _____

Other pupils present: _____

How did the incident begin? (antecedents)

What led to the incident/triggered the behaviour?

Executive Headteacher Mrs Diane Lakey
Embleton Vincent Edwards CE Primary School, Embleton, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 3XR

Registered address: Pele Trust c/o Ponteland High School, The Crescent, Callerton Lane, Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE20 9EG
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (company number: 11395017).

What behaviour was observed? (behaviour)

State actual behaviour observed, e.g. hitting rather than aggressive.

What was done to defuse/de-escalate the situation? (consequences)

Quiet Time

Behaviour Management Plan followed

Other (please state):

Was the pupil's Risk Assessment and Support Plan followed?

No plan was in place

Yes, and was adequate to manage the incident

Yes, but additional measures were needed and/or behaviour had not been experienced before and the Behaviour Change Support Plan will need reviewing as a result of the incident

Reason why positive physical intervention was thought necessary:

The pupil was at immediate risk of injury (Flight)

The pupil was placing other pupils at risk of injury

The pupil was placing staff or others present at risk of injury

Property was about to be damaged

Good order was prejudiced - how

Other - please explain

Description of physical interventions used:

Please tick all that apply

Technique used	Time applied for:	Technique used	Time applied for:

single elbow		Leg support	minutes on/off		
double elbow		Head support	minutes on/off		
wrap					
Safe Space					
<i>Location of support</i>	<i>Time applied for:</i>				
Supported sitting on 3 chairs					
Supported on floor - child dropped to floor					
Supported on floor - child taken to ground					
Breathing monitored by:					
Supported into standing using pupil's own movements & momentum	No. of staff involved and initials:				
Supported into standing against resistance	No. of staff involved and initials:				

Post incident support

How was the pupil calmed after the incident?

Quiet time/Minimal choices given/checking-in

Praised for appropriate/on task behaviour

Other - please state:

Incident discussed with pupil at level appropriate to their understanding

S By whom?

Pupil's views recorded via debrief sheet- not happy to engage with this.

Parents informed

Significant Incident Report Form sent home- by whom?

By telephone - by whom?

In person by:

In home/school diary - by whom?

Email sent home - by whom?

Injuries - please tick all that apply and add HS1 number to brackets []

Staff injured:

Pupil involved in incident injured:

Other people injured [] HS1 completed

Damage to property

Record any damage to property: Gus tore-up cardboard box whilst at blue table.

All staff involved please sign to confirm this is an accurate record of the incident:

Signed: Signed:

Signed: Signed:

Signed: Signed:

Lead member of staff:

Signed: Time: Date:

Report passed to: Designation

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Action taken by Behaviour Support Facilitator

RPI record completed fully and correctly -

- Action taken to remedy

Sims Behaviour Log (and HS1 if required) completed by

Report reviewed with staff and support/guidance provided - by:

- Summarise:

Signed: Time:
..... Date:

Action taken by Headteacher

Sims Log checked/signed

Parents informed by

- Telephoned
- Invited into school
- Other - please state:

Other professionals informed:

Name	Designation	Date informed and how

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Signed: Time:

Date:

Appendix B

Positive Handling Log

We believe that positive handling should only be used when absolutely necessary. With this in mind, this form has been created to ensure that all incidents of this type are recorded in line with school policy. Details of the individual incident will be recorded using the [Positive Handling Report Form](#), held on the child's file.

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