

## PHYSICAL HANDLING POLICY

### **Policy Statement**

A number of strategies will be used within the Pre-School to manage a child's behaviour such as: distraction, redirection, ignoring negative behaviours and positive engagement before physical intervention. Physical intervention intended to control or restrain will only be used as a last resort and in very exceptional circumstances.

### **Procedures**

If a child is hurt or distressed adults will respond in a sympathetic and appropriate manner for a child who is of Pre-School age. This may include offering physical comfort in the form of a cuddle, sitting the child on an adult's knee, removing the child, with an adult, to a quiet space for the child to calm down. It is recognised that some children when hurt or distressed dislike physical comfort. Adults will be aware of this and will not further distress a child by offering unwanted physical contact. In consultation with the parents the best way of assisting the child in such a situation will be adopted. At times the most appropriate and effective way of teaching a child a new skill may involve 'physical prompting'. Examples of this are: placing an adult hand over a child's hand when teaching them to hold a pencil, throw a ball, use a bat or place an object into a box, for example when tidying up.

### **Physical Interventions intended to prevent injury to the child or other children/adults.**

Dfes guidelines (circular 10/98 and taking into account the Education Act 1996 section 550a) identify that a physical intervention can be used as a last resort in circumstances where:

Good classroom order is at risk.

The child is at risk of harming/injuring themselves.

The child is at risk of harming/injuring others.

Any physical intervention deemed essential will use the minimum of force over the shortest period of time. These may include:

Physical interposing between two children.

Blocking a child's path if they are intent on hurting another child.

Deflecting a hand or foot, or another body part that is intended to make contact with another child or adult.

Shepherding a child away by placing a hand in the centre of their back.

Moving a child who is refusing to leave an area, by picking them up and taking them to the appropriate place, for example from inside to outside.

Moving a child to a quiet area, with the support of an adult, when their behaviour is disturbing the activities of others within the room.

Whenever a physical intervention has been used during Pre-School:

It will be recorded in the incident book and parents will be informed at the end of the session.

A meeting will be arranged with parents, the child's Keyworker, the designated Pre-School SENCO and any other agencies thought to be appropriate.

This meeting will be an opportunity to plan strategies which will be adopted to manage a child's behaviour and promote improved behaviour patterns which will promote consistency at home and within Pre-School.