



King George V Primary School

Positive Handling Policy

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lynne', on a light blue rectangular background.

Headteacher

Date: 9th March 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Louni Reed', on a light blue rectangular background.

Chair of governors

Date: 9th March 2026

Last updated: November 2024

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Statement of intent:

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.

King George V is dedicated to fostering a nurturing and secure environment that facilitates the growth, development, and learning of pupils. In recognising the complexities of certain situations, the school acknowledges the potential need for managing violence through control and restraint. This policy underscores the understanding that there may be instances where staff members must employ positive handling, and in certain circumstances, reasonable force, to address conflicts when alternative measures prove ineffective. The primary objective of this policy is to guarantee that actions such as positive handling and reasonable force are executed appropriately and safely, aligning with pertinent legislation and national guidance.

1. Legal framework:

- 1.1. 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
- 1.2. This policy has due regard to the following guidance:
 - DfE (2013) 'Use of reasonable force in schools'
 - DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
 - DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- 1.3. This policy operates in conjunction with the following **school policies**:
 - Allegations Against Staff Policy
 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
 - Behavioural Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities:

- 2.1. The governing board is responsible for:
 - Monitoring the overall implementation of this policy.
 - Evaluating the Positive Handling Log to analyse how and when positive handling is used and identify any trends.
 - Reviewing this policy on an annual basis.
 - Responding to any complaints, in liaison with the headteacher, from pupils or parents regarding the use of reasonable force.
- 2.2. The headteacher is responsible for:
 - Ensuring all members of staff receive the appropriate training to use reasonable force.
 - Ensuring all members of staff understand the correct conduct in terms of positive handling.
 - Handling any allegations of abuse in line with the Allegations of Abuse Policy.
 - Maintaining the Positive Handling Log and sending this to the governing board at the end of each term for it to be evaluated.
 - Ensuring that any member of staff who uses reasonable force completes the Positive Handling Report Form.
 - Responding to any complaints, in liaison with the governing board, from pupils or parents regarding the use of reasonable force.
- 2.3. The SENCO is responsible for:
 - Providing training to members of staff on how to handle pupils with SEND.
 - Ensuring staff understand how pupils with SEND may react differently to reasonable force.
 - Ensuring that staff understand the additional vulnerability of pupils with SEND or medical conditions.
 - Developing individual behaviour plans for more vulnerable pupils and ensuring teaching staff are aware of these.
 - Ensuring that staff understand how reasonable force principles may need to be adapted for pupils with medical conditions.
- 2.4. The DSL is responsible for:
 - Providing staff with annual reasonable force training.
 - Ensuring all members of staff use reasonable force in accordance with this policy.
 - Reviewing this policy in liaison with the headteacher and governing board.

3. What is positive handling?

- 3.1. For the purpose of this policy, 'positive handling' is the positive application of force with the intention of protecting pupils and limiting damage to property.
- 3.2. Legal framework and national guidance often refers to the 'use of force' – this policy uses the term 'positive handling' whenever possible.
- 3.3. Positive handling is used in the school to:
 - Restrain a pupil who has lost emotional self-control until the situation is diffused.
 - Limit the amount of harm that the pupil involved can do to their self or others.
 - Demonstrate to pupils that they are within a safe environment in which adults can contain pupils' anger and other erratic emotions.
 - Protect all pupils against any form of physical intervention which is unnecessary, inappropriate, excessive or harmful.
- 3.4. Positive handling will be limited to emergency situations and used only as a measure of last resort.
- 3.5. Where positive handling is required, the school will abide to the following guidance:
 - Initial intervention will always be without force.
 - Any physical intervention will follow other appropriate actions.
 - Staff will take a calm and measured approach in all situations.
- 3.6. Positive handling will be applied as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allowing the pupil to regain self-control.

4. What is reasonable force?

- 4.1. There is no statutory definition of reasonable force; it will always depend on the circumstance of the case.
- 4.2. The use of reasonable force is only acceptable to control pupils or restrain them.
- 4.3. 'Control' refers to either passive physical contact, such as blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm.
- 4.4. 'Restraint' refers to physically bringing a pupil under control, such as holding them back. This is typically used in more extreme circumstances, such as to separate two pupils fighting.
- 4.5. The degree of force that is used will depend on the pupil's circumstances, e.g. age.
- 4.6. Staff members will always use actions that are appropriate and in proportion to the circumstances of the incidents.
- 4.7. All incidents that involve the use of reasonable force will be reported to the headteacher and recorded in writing.
- 4.8. The school is able to use reasonable force in situations when:
 - Pupils pose a high risk to themselves, others and property.
- 4.9. Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort. The decision to apply physical intervention will always be made under the following criteria;
 - Duty of care
 - Best interests
 - Reasonable and proportionate
 - Last resort and least restrictive
 - The risk of doing something and the risk of doing nothing
 - Human rights
 - Reduce use, prevent misuse and abuse

5. Use of positive handling and reasonable force:

- 5.1. All trained members of staff are permitted to use positive handling where they believe it to be appropriate and as a last resort, as long as all necessary precautions are taken.
- 5.2. The decision to physically intervene during a situation is down to the professional judgement of the member of a trained member of staff and always depends on the circumstances.
- 5.3. Staff will always conduct a consistent, calm response, including appropriate verbal interventions (interrupt, redirect, reinforce).
- 5.4. Staff members will always act reasonably and proportionally and adopt the principle that it is the last resort and least restrictive.
- 5.5. Following the event, we believe that it is very important to rebuild rapport and relationships with restorative conversations and reflection. This opportunity encourages acceptance of responsibility, empathy for others and problem solving (developing resilience).
- 5.6. Where necessary, external agencies, such as the LA or the police if a crime has been committed, will be informed of the incident.

6. SEND:

- 6.1. The school will have due consideration to the risks posed by the additional vulnerability of pupils with SEND in terms of positive handling.
- 6.2. The SENCO will ensure that the stipulations of the Equality Act 2010 are adhered to in relation to reasonable adjustments, non-discrimination and the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 6.3. The school will adhere to its Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy at all times.
- 6.4. To reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviour that can lead to the use of reasonable force, the SENCO will establish individual behaviour plans for pupils with SEND.
- 6.5. The SENCO will liaise with the DSL, in terms of using positive handling on pupils with SEND, and establish how training may need to be amended.

7. Reporting incidents:

- 7.1. A detailed written report will be kept of any incidents where positive handling is used.
- 7.2. Immediately following an incident, the member(s) of staff involved will verbally report the incident to the headteacher and provide a comprehensive written record of the situation as soon as possible, using the Positive Handling Report Form.
- 7.3. The written report of the incident must be thorough, including as much detail as possible as to what had happened before, during and after the incident, and describing any injuries incurred due to the event.
- 7.4. The headteacher will make the 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.
- 7.5. If a member of staff witnesses or suspects the use of positive handling or reasonable force, where another member of staff is actively involved in physical intervention, they will report this to the headteacher or senior leader immediately.
- 7.6. 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 Against Staff Policy.

8. Complaints:

- 8.1. All trained members of staff are fully aware of the consequences and legal retributions that can occur following the incorrect use of positive handling and force.
- 8.2. All complaints regarding the use of positive handling or force will be investigated in a thorough and speedy manner.
- 8.3. The person making the complaint is responsible to prove that their allegations are true, and therefore, it is not for the member of staff to prove that their actions were made reasonably.
- 8.4. In extreme circumstances, parents may take civil action or pursue a criminal prosecution.
- 8.5. In the case where a member of staff has acted within the law, this will provide a defence to any civil or criminal prosecution.
- 8.6. Members of staff accused of using excessive force will not be automatically suspended as a response to the allegations. The following procedure will be adhered to:
 - Careful consideration will be given to whether the case warrants a person being suspended until the allegation is resolved.
 - The governing board will always take into account whether a staff member has acted within the law when considering whether or not to take disciplinary action against a staff member involved in an incident.
 - Where a member of staff is suspended, the school will ensure that the staff member has access to a named contact that can provide support and guidance.
 - The school will provide pastoral care to any member of staff who is subject to a formal allegation.

9. Staff training:

- 9.1. All staff will be regularly reminded of the positive handling techniques employed by the school.
- 9.2. Only techniques and strategies that are Crisis Prevention Institute accredited and have been safely demonstrated will be used (MAPA)
- 9.3. Staff will be made aware of subsequent risks of their actions and fully understand when it is appropriate and necessary to use such actions.

10. Monitoring and review:

- 10.1. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher and governing board, who will consider any necessary changes and communicate the findings of the review to all members of staff.
- 10.2. The headteacher will review records of the use of positive handling and reasonable force on a termly basis, to analyse the frequency of occurrence and determine what further measures could be taken to prevent these situations from reoccurring.



Positive Handling Report Form

Name of pupil _____ Class _____ Date and Time _____

Using the decision-making matrix below, identify the judged level of risk for the behaviour (tick) :

SEVERITY				High Risk
	Low Risk	LIKELIHOOD		

Summary of incident/behaviour:

Reason(s) for positive handling (please tick)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Danger to self |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Danger to others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Significant damage to property |

Intervention/s undertaken:
Disengagements (Actions)

	Wrist/Arm	Clothing	Hair
Low - Hold and Stabilise			
Medium - Pull/Push			

Hold/s actioned:

	Standing	Seated - Chair	Seated - floor
Low			
Medium			
High			

Verbal script

Interrupt	Redirect	Reinforce

Complete the following information:

Who (held) Please include date of MAPA training and expiry	
Why	
When	
Where	
How long (Provide times)	
Restorative conversation taken place?	

Provide any other important information below:

Report completed by _____ Role _____ Date _____

Report passed on to _____ Role _____ Date _____

