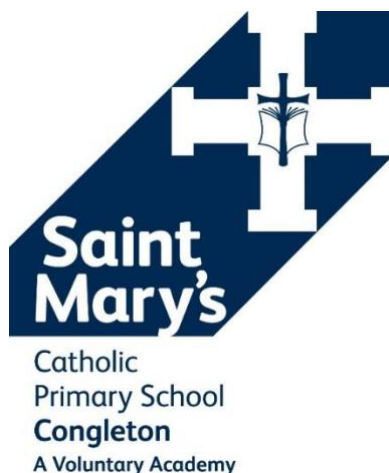


Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



Positive Handling Policy

Policy schedule	Date	Signed
Approved by the Governing Body:	16/07/2024	Executive Head: Martine Gum Chair of Governors: Val Bridge
To be reviewed:	July 2026	

*“Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School is a
Christ centred learning community, where all are
safe, valued and loved.”*

POSITIVE HANDLING POLICY

Introduction

This policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils who may need to be positively handled. This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies relating to interaction between adults and pupils specifically the school's Behaviour Policy.

The application of any form of positive handling places staff and children in a vulnerable situation. Staff, therefore, have a responsibility to follow the policy and to seek alternative strategies wherever possible in order to prevent the need for positive handling. Positive handling will only be used as a last resort when all other behaviour management strategies have failed or when pupils, staff or property are at risk.

Definitions of contact

(a) Physical Contact: Situations in which proper physical contact takes place between staff and pupils, e.g. in games/ PE or to comfort pupils.

(b) Physical Intervention: This may be used to divert a pupil from a destructive or disruptive action, for example guiding or leading a pupil by the hand, arm or shoulder with little or no force.

(c) Positive Handling: This will involve the use of reasonable force when there is a risk to pupils, staff or property or if good order is being seriously prejudiced. All such incidents will be recorded using CPOMS. A category for positive handling is allocated under the category of behaviour. Such intervention will always be used as a last resort. Teachers will ensure the appropriate people are notified including the Headteacher.

Underpinning Values

Everyone attending or working at Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School has the right to:

- a recognition of their unique identity
- be treated with respect and dignity
- learn and work in a safe environment
- be protected from harm

Pupils attending this school and their parents have a right to:

- individual consideration of pupils needs by staff that have responsibility for their care and protection
- expect staff to undertake duties and responsibilities in accordance with the school's policies
- be informed about school rules, relevant policies and the expected conduct of all pupils and staff working in the school
- be informed about the school's complaints procedure

The school will ensure that all pupils understand the need for and respond to clearly defined limits which govern behaviour in the school.

Parents should have committed themselves, through the Home-School Agreement, to work in partnership with the school to ensure that their child understands and follows the School's Behaviour Policy.

Training

Positive Handling training will be made available to all teachers and teaching assistants. No member of staff will be expected to undertake positive handling without appropriate training.

Strategies for Dealing with Challenging Behaviour

All challenging behaviour will be addressed using the guidelines set out in the **Behaviour Policy**. Should an incident require further intervention then staff will use reasonable physical intervention using the minimum degree of contact to prevent a child harming him or herself, others or property. Where possible, two members of staff will assist one another in positively handling the pupil. The form of physical intervention may involve staff doing the following:

- physically interposing themselves between pupils
- blocking a pupil's path
- escorting a pupil
- shepherding a pupil away

Recording

Where positive handling has been used, a record of the incident always needs to be kept and the Headteacher informed. All incidents need to be recorded on CPOMS, on the day of incident and needs to include the following:

- name of pupil
- date, time and place of incident
- a brief description of the incident and actions taken
- attempts made to de-escalate and calm the situation
- names of people who witnessed the situation
- any damage/harm to persons or property
- name of person informing parents
- after investigation a summary of action taken

Complaints

Any complaints about staff will be dealt with under the school's Complaints Policy (maintained by the OLHoC Trust).

Read in conjunction with:

- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Suspension and Exclusion Policy