



WICKERSLEY
PARTNERSHIP
TRUST.

Positive Handling Policy for Parents & Carers

DATE: March 2026

OWNED BY: Director of Safeguarding

APPROVED BY: Education Subcommittee

WICKERSLEY PARTNERSHIP TRUST

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1. Introduction and Purpose

At Wickersley Partnership Trust, our overriding objective is to keep every child and adult in our school community safe from harm. We are committed to maintaining a supportive and respectful environment.

While we always prioritise positive behaviour management and de-escalation, there are rare occasions where staff may need to intervene physically to prevent a child from harming themselves, others, or causing serious damage. This policy outlines the principles regarding the use of "Positive Handling" (reasonable force) within our schools.

2. What is Positive Handling?

Positive handling is the application of reasonable force with the intention of protecting a child from harming themselves or others, or seriously damaging property.

We follow the principle that any force used must be:

- **Necessary:** Used only when other reasonable alternatives have failed or in an emergency.
- **Proportionate:** The minimum force needed to achieve the desired result is applied for the shortest time possible.
- **Reasonable:** Appropriate to the circumstances and the student's age, understanding, and needs.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Our staff have a legal power to use reasonable force under Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006⁸.

This allows staff to intervene to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing a criminal offence.
- Causing personal injury to themselves or others.
- Causing damage to property.
- Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school.

4. Our Approach

Physical intervention is always viewed as a last resort.

We utilise the Team Teach approach, a nationally recognised framework for behaviour support. Our staff are trained to focus on:

- **De-escalation:** Using well-chosen words, negotiation, and empathy to calm a situation before it requires physical contact.
- **Modifying the Environment:** Removing dangerous objects or moving the child to a safer, quieter space.

Positive handling is only used if a child appears unable to exercise self-control and presents an obvious risk. Staff will never use force to punish, inflict pain, or humiliate a child.

5. Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

We acknowledge our legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for children with disabilities or Special Educational Needs (SEN). For students with known behavioural needs, we may agree on a Positive Handling Plan in advance with parents to manage risks safely and predictably.

6. Power to Search

In addition to managing behaviour, Headteachers and authorised staff have the statutory power to use reasonable force to search for prohibited items if necessary. These items include knives, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco, fireworks, and pornographic images.

7. Communication with Parents

We believe in transparency. If positive handling is used with your child, the school will inform you:

- When: Ideally, a senior leader will phone you as soon as practically possible, followed by a written notification (email or online message).
- What is shared: We will provide details of the time, location, reason for the intervention, and whether any injuries were sustained.

We also encourage a discussion following an incident to explore triggers and how we can work together to prevent future occurrences.

8. Complaints

We take the use of force very seriously. If you have any concerns regarding an incident involving your child, please refer to the school's standard complaint procedures.

9. Version Control

Current Version: 1

| Date | Revision (Details and Reason) | Author |
|------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| March 2026 | First version of policy | Director of Safeguarding, |



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