



Rosehill Junior School

Positive Handling Policy

2025-26

Z Norris



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1. Introduction & Ethos

Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior School is committed to providing a calm, ordered, and inclusive environment where "Better Learning, Better Life" is a reality for every child. We believe that children need security and stable, caring relationships to develop self-discipline.

Our approach prioritises a reward-orientated ethos. Positive handling is never used as a punishment; it is an act of care and control used only as a last resort to maintain safety.

2. Legal Framework & Definition

In accordance with Section 550A of the Education Act 1996, authorized staff may use reasonable force to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing a criminal offence.
- Injuring themselves or others.
- Causing significant damage to property.
- Engaging in behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline.

Reasonable force means using the minimum degree of force necessary to achieve the desired result based on the specific circumstances.



3. Training & Authorised Staff

All staff at Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior School have received **TEAM TEACH** training. This BILD-accredited approach emphasizes de-escalation strategies and ensures that any physical intervention is age-appropriate and respects the child's dignity.

- **Authorisation:** All teachers are naturally authorized to use positive handling. Support staff (mentors, TAs) are specifically authorized by the Headteacher.
- **Maintenance:** All authorized staff must update their TEAM TEACH training annually with an accredited instructor.

4. Preventative Strategies (The “Last Resort” Principle)

Before physical intervention is considered, staff will utilize de-escalation techniques, including:

- **Communication:** Using a calm voice, relaxed body language, and diversionary tactics.
- **Environment:** Giving the child space to back down and removing any "audience" (other pupils) from the area.
- **Individual Plans:** Pupils identified as high-risk will have an Individual Behaviour Management Plan (BMP) attached to their IEP.



5. Positive Handling Procedures

When intervention is necessary:

1. **Communication:** Staff will tell the pupil why they are being held (to keep them safe) and that they will be released as soon as they are calm.
2. **Support:** At least one other member of staff should be present whenever possible to act as a witness and provider of support.
3. **Techniques:** Only TEAM TEACH-approved holds (such as escorting by the arm or blocking a path) are permitted.
4. **Prohibited Actions:** Staff must never use holds that restrict breathing, involve "pain for compliance," or include slapping, punching, or tripping.

6. Post-Incident Support & Recording

Following an incident where positive handling was used:

- **Medical Care:** Immediate first aid will be provided to anyone injured.
- **Recording:** A detailed report must be written in the school's incident book within **24 hours**. This must include the reason for force, the degree of force used, and the duration.
- **Notification:** Parents/carers will be informed of the incident as quickly as possible.
- **Debriefing:** Both the staff member and the pupil will receive an opportunity to reflect on the incident once calm.



7. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher will review all incident logs to ensure lessons are learned and to monitor the wellbeing of staff and pupils. The Governing Body will be informed of the number of incidents on an annual basis. The review will be conducted by the Headteacher in collaboration with the Governing Body.

Signed by:

Headteacher: _____ Date: _____

Chair of Governors: _____ Date: _____