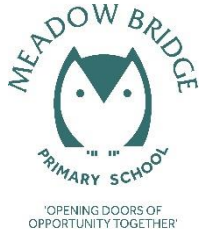




'OPENING DOORS OF
OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER'

SAFE HANDLING POLICY

FEBRUARY 2025



SAFE HANDLING POLICY

School Mission Statement

Meadow Bridge Primary School aims to foster a safe, happy, and caring environment where each child's personal development is nurtured. Every child's educational journey is enhanced, and their lives enriched through stimulating learning experiences. Equal emphasis will be placed on pastoral care and on ensuring each individual reaches his or her academic potential, equipping them for the future.

Meadow Bridge Primary School believes that:

- Each child has the right to be educated in a safe and secure environment where each child's moral, intellectual, personal, social, and emotional development is promoted.
- Each child should be educated in a safe, caring, and respectful atmosphere.
- All staff have the right to work in a safe and secure environment.

The following purposes underpin Meadow Bridge Primary School's policy and practices to:

- Create a learning environment in which young people and adults feel safe.
- Protect every person in the school community from harm.
- Protect all pupils against any form of physical intervention which is unnecessary, inappropriate, excessive, or harmful.

Procedures

- There may be times when a member of staff may have to decide between using reasonable force or standing back and allowing colleagues or pupils to face a potential danger.
- There will always be an element of personal judgement in these decisions.
- It is, however, reasonable to expect a member of staff to engage in some risk where there is evidence of danger to others.

- Staff should not put themselves in personal danger to protect property.
- Reasonable force/safe handling can be used by a teacher or other authorised person. It should be limited to emergency situations and used only as a last resort when all other behaviour management strategies have been exhausted and where:
 - action is necessary in self-defence or because there is imminent risk of injury to another pupil or person;
 - there is a developing risk of injury to another pupil or person, or significant damage to property.

Definition of Reasonable Force

- The minimum force necessary to prevent a pupil from physically harming himself/herself or others, or seriously damaging property, but used in a manner which attempts to preserve the dignity of all concerned.
- It is usual practice for parents to be informed when physical restraint has been applied.

Forms of Reasonable Force

- When other behaviour management strategies have failed, it should be the minimum intervention or force used as a last resort and in a reasonable and proportionate manner.
- It should be used only when absolutely necessary.

Limits on the Use of Force

Staff should not act in a way that might be expected to cause injury, for example by:

- holding around the neck
- any hold that might restrict breathing
- kicking, slapping, or punching
- forcing limbs against joint
- holding or pulling the pupil by the hair
- holding the pupil face down on the ground.

Record Keeping

- Any incident using reasonable force must be recorded in the Incident Book and the Principal notified.
- The Chairman of the Board of Governors and the Principal will review entries in the Incident Book annually.
- These will be retained in line with the school's Record Keeping Policy.