



Registered Charity No: 1128799

# Hollies Pre-school

## Positive Handling Policy

Last reviewed August 2024

To be reviewed August 2028

Or sooner if required.

This policy sets out the Hollies framework for the use of positive handling and the use of reasonable force.

Reasonable force may need to be used in the following incidents.

1. Action due to imminent risk of injury;
2. Action due to imminent risk of damage to property;
3. Action where an individual is compromising good order and discipline.

Reasonable force would not include the following.

1. Holding a child around the neck;
2. Slapping, punching, kicking or tripping a child;
3. Twisting or forcing limbs against joints;
4. Holding a child face down on the ground;
5. Lifting a child off the floor to intimidate.

In the event of restraint becoming necessary, before touching the child the staff member should inform the child calmly about what they are going to do and why.

While intervening, the staff member must:

1. Employ minimum physical force necessary for the minimum period needed;
2. Keep his or her temper;
3. Wherever possible keep talking to the child and give choices as to how they could behave in a manner that would end the need for restraint;
4. Avoid committing any act of punitive violence.

Types of restraint which may be appropriate.

1. Any holding tactic in which a young child is restrained without injury until the child calms down;
2. The holding of a young persons legs or arms to prevent striking or kicking;
3. The use of sufficient force without causing injury to remove a dangerous object from the persons grasp;
4. Physically contact with a young person designed to control the young person movements, which pose a danger. (E.g. holding by the arms at the side of the body).

After the incident it is vital that a full report is completed, in the incident book, by all concerned. This will be followed up with a meeting if needed of all relevant persons e.g. parents, child and staff.

