

Bizzie Lizzies Nursery and Pre School.

Nursery Ofsted URN- EY392303
Pre school Ofsted URN – 2549120
RP number - 906327

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Positive Handling

Introduction

This policy sets out the nursery's approach to positive handling and physical intervention. Our primary aim is always to create a safe, calm, and supportive environment for all children. Physical restraint is **not used as a form of punishment or control**, but may be necessary on rare occasions to prevent harm.

This policy is consistent with:

- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)**
- **EYFS Statutory Framework (2024)**
- **Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership guidance**
- The nursery's **Touch Policy** and **Safeguarding Policy**

Ethos and Principles

- Every child has the right to be safe, respected, and treated with dignity.
- Positive relationships, de-escalation strategies, and proactive behaviour support are always prioritised before physical intervention.

- Physical restraint will only ever be used:
 - To prevent harm to the child or others
 - To prevent serious damage to property
 - To prevent a child from leaving a safe space in a way that would put them at risk
 - Any intervention must be **necessary, proportionate, and the least restrictive option**.
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Definition of Positive Handling

Positive handling refers to **the use of reasonable, minimum physical intervention** to ensure the safety of a child or others. Examples include:

- Gently holding a child's hand to prevent them running into danger
 - Guiding a child away from a situation to prevent escalation
 - Holding a child safely if they are at risk of harming themselves or others
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When Physical Restraint May Be Used

Staff may use restraint when:

- A child is physically hurting themselves, another child, or adult
- A child is running into a dangerous situation (e.g., into a road or out of the building)
- A child is causing serious, sustained disruption that poses a risk of harm

Restraint must never be used for:

- Compliance or obedience
 - Punishment
 - As a substitute for appropriate support or communication
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Staff Practice

- Staff will use calm, clear communication and de-escalation first.
- Where restraint is required, staff will:
 - Use the **minimum force necessary for the shortest time possible**

- Prioritise the child's **emotional security, dignity, and wellbeing**
 - Release the child as soon as it is safe to do so
 - Staff involved in positive handling will receive training in safe and appropriate methods.
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Recording and Reporting

- Any use of physical restraint will be recorded in the **Positive Handling Log** on the same day.
 - Records will include:
 - Date, time, and location of the incident
 - Who was involved
 - Why restraint was necessary
 - The type of restraint used
 - Duration of restraint
 - Outcome and any follow-up actions
 - Parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible on the same day.
 - The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will review all incidents to monitor patterns and ensure practice is safe and appropriate.
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Safeguarding

- All staff have a duty of care to protect children from harm.
 - Concerns about inappropriate use of restraint will be treated as a **safeguarding concern** and dealt with in line with the **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**.
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Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if national or local guidance changes.
- Staff, children (where appropriate), and families will be consulted in developing safe and effective practice.