

Christ the Redeemer Primary School

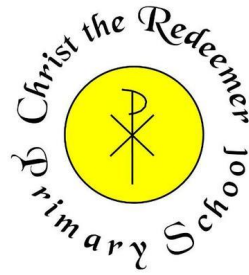
Safe Handling Policy



As a Rights Respecting School, our pathway to a successful future is grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Schools should work towards what is best for the child. (Article 3)

All children should be protected from violence, abuse and neglect. (Article 19)



Vision for Christ the Redeemer

In collaboration with our pupils, staff, families, governors, and community, we build an inclusive educational environment where every child feels safe, nurtured and empowered to achieve their full potential.

Care, Teamwork, Respect.

As a Rights Respecting School, our vision is grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Pupil Aims

- Instill Catholic values such as care, respect and tolerance.
- All pupils valued and respected unconditionally.
- Develop and enhance the resilience, worth and dignity of every child.
- Inspire a lifelong love of learning.
- Enabled to take responsibility for their learning and be able to express their views in a variety of ways.
- Celebrate all achievements.
- Celebrate and nurture faith and embrace diversity.
- Provide diverse range of learning opportunities, taking account of digital technologies, including an extensive programme of before and after school provision.
- Equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to grow themselves as compassionate and productive members of society.
- Develop a sense of empathy, responsibility and citizenship at a local and global level.

School Aims

- Promote inclusion while nurturing and developing individuality.
- Provide effective leadership and governance to drive the vision of the school forward.
- Promote a highly skilled and committed staff, with a strong emphasis on continuous professional development, in order to realise the vision.
- Welcome, encourage and act upon direct communication with learners.
- Foster strong parental links; provide opportunities for parents to reach their full potential.
- Develop relationships with the parish and wider school community based on mutual respect and the values underpinning the UNCRC.
- Equip the children with the skills necessary to cope with the emotional and social challenges of everyday life through developing their sense of worth, responsibility and independence.

Christ the Redeemer Primary School is committed to promoting a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment for all pupils.

This policy outlines our approach to positive handling, which prioritises de-escalation, emotional regulation and pupil dignity.

This policy is underpinned by:

- The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
- The Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 2003
- The Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), particularly:
 - o **Article 3** – The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
 - o **Article 19** – Children have the right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury, or abuse.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff.
- Clarify the circumstances under which physical intervention may be considered.
- Promote a culture of proactive support and de-escalation.
- Ensure compliance with statutory guidance and best practice.

The policy is based on the following principles:

- Non-restraint approach: School does not use physical restraint as part of routine behaviour management.
- Emergency use only: Physical intervention is only considered in exceptional circumstances where there is an immediate risk of significant harm to the pupil or others.
- Minimum necessary force: Any intervention must use the least amount of force for the shortest duration necessary to prevent harm.
- Dignity and respect: All actions must preserve the dignity and rights of the child.
- Staff training: Staff receive training in de-escalation techniques and emergency intervention protocols.

Positive handling refers to planned or emergency physical intervention used to prevent injury or harm. It does not include punitive or disciplinary restraint.

At Christ the Redeemer Primary School, positive handling is defined as:

“The use of physical contact in exceptional circumstances to prevent significant harm, carried out in a manner that is safe, proportionate and respectful.”

Physical intervention may be considered only when:

- A pupil is at immediate risk of causing serious harm to themselves.
- A pupil is at immediate risk of causing serious harm to another person.
- All other de-escalation strategies have been exhausted or are not feasible in the moment.

The following outlines the procedure following an incident:

- **Recording:** Any incident involving physical intervention must be recorded in the school's incident log and safeguarding system.
- **Reporting:** Parents/carers will be informed on the same day.
- **Review:** The incident will be reviewed by the SLT to ensure appropriate action was taken and to identify any further support needed.
- **Support:** Staff and pupils involved will be offered emotional support and follow-up.

The following covers the Staff responsibilities:

- Staff must follow the school's behaviour and safeguarding policies.
- Staff must use de-escalation techniques as the first response.
- Staff must report any concerns or incidents immediately.
- Only staff trained in emergency intervention may carry out physical handling (as delivered by EA),

This policy will be reviewed annually or following any incident involving physical intervention.



Parent/Guardian Consent Form for Safe Handling

I, the parent/guardian, have read and understood the Safe Handling Policy of Christ the Redeemer Primary School. I acknowledge that the policy outlines the situations in which physical intervention may be necessary for the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and staff.

By signing this consent form, I agree to the following:

I give permission for the staff of Christ the Redeemer Primary School to use physical intervention with my child, if deemed necessary in accordance with the school's Safe Handling Policy.

I understand that physical intervention will only be used as a last resort, when other behaviour management strategies have been unsuccessful, or when immediate action is needed to prevent harm to my child, other pupils, or staff, or to prevent damage to property.

I acknowledge that the school will always strive to use the minimum force necessary to control a situation, and physical intervention will be carried out in a way that respects the dignity and safety of my child.

I also acknowledge that the school may work with external support services if required, and those staff will operate in accordance with the Safe Handling Policy.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Child's Name and Class: _____

Regardless of parental signature recorded above parents must note that in all instances the school will exercise a "safety-first approach" to pupils' wellbeing.

