

## Willow Tree Primary School – Team Teach Approach

### Introduction

Here at the Willow Tree we aim to provide a learning environment that is free from fear and safe from harm. We have policies and procedures followed by all our staff to secure the best learning and development for our children.

### Rationale

We are an inclusive school that tries to meet the needs of all our pupils regardless of their level of support need and therefore, from time to time, some pupils may present with challenging behaviour. Our health and safety commitment to pupils and staff means that we will carry out a risk assessment to foresee and reduce the risks presented occasionally by their behaviour. This may also mean that there are times when their behaviour requires staff physical support to ensure the pupils' own safety, the safety of other pupils and staff, or that property is not seriously damaged. This can require the use of physical interventions.

### Team Teach Approach

'Team Teach' is the approach adopted by us at Willow Tree to manage challenging and aggressive behaviour. The majority of our teaching and some non-teaching staff have been trained in the use of this approach. The Head teacher keeps a list of those staff authorised to use Team Teach and they receive regular refresher training from instructors.

The basic philosophy of the approach is as follows:

- 95% or more of all incidents should be managed without recourse to physical intervention
- it is a flexible framework of responses stressing a holistic approach
- De-escalation of situations is a priority (e.g. using communication skills, humour, distraction etc.)
- Gradual and graded positive handling techniques are based on providing the maximum amount of care control and therapeutic support for the shortest possible time necessary to ensure the safety of all concerned.

All incidents of positive handling are reported, recorded, monitored and evaluated. Any injury sustained during an incident involving positive handling is reported to the Parent/Carer, Headteacher and the Local Authority (LA). After receipt of the information, the LA will decide if they wish to investigate further the referral.

Parent and Carer should be assured that all staff are committed to providing a safe and productive learning environment for all. Staff will ensure that any physical intervention will happen wherever possible as a last resort.

### Physical Intervention and Reasonable Force

Both the Department for Education (DFE) and Department of Health (DOH) issue clear guidelines for the use of physical intervention and the use of reasonable force. The School has copies of these guidelines that are available to you upon request. If you have any questions concerning the use of physical interventions or the Team Teach Approach, please do not hesitate to contact the School. More information regarding the Team-Teach Approach can be found via the internet by visiting [www.team-teach.co.uk](http://www.team-teach.co.uk).

### School Behaviour Policy

The Team Teach approach sits alongside the school behaviour Policy that can be found at [www.willowtree.priinmaryschool.org](http://www.willowtree.priinmaryschool.org).