



Ryhope Infant School Academy
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Headteacher: Mrs T Allen

30 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Behaviour management is an essential part of school life. All members of staff are expected to manage the behaviour of the children within their care and ensure they are kept safe at all times. In school our aim is to provide a nurturing environment for children to learn in and to make every child feel safe, secure and happy in order to develop to their full potential. As part of continuing professional development nineteen members of staff have been trained in Team Teach, this includes teachers, teaching assistants and lunchtime assistants. Team Teach is a holistic approach which is used to support behaviour management. Team Teach is about training staff in the de-escalation of challenging behaviour in a calm and positive manner. Occasionally, there are times when behaviour does become challenging to the point that it is posing a threat to the safety of the child or the other children in the area. When de-escalation is not having the desired impact it is important that staff know how to respond to ensure that incidents are over as quickly as possible and the safety of all involved is a priority. It will be necessary during these times to use positive handling with the child. Positive handling is always used as a last resort and uses the minimum degree of force necessary for the shortest period of time to prevent a pupil harming him/herself, others or property. Only staff who are trained in Team Teach are permitted to do so. Circumstances when this may be necessary include preventing injury to themselves, injury to others, destruction of property or prolonged disruption of others' learning. (This could involve moving a pupil to another area).

Following an incident where positive handling has been used, staff will record in detail who was involved, behaviours observed, triggers for behaviours and for how long the child was held. Staff will use records to reflect on how to lower the risk of a similar incident occurring in the future. This may involve writing a behaviour support plan, which would be shared and agreed with parents/carers. Parents will be informed if positive handling has been used on their child and the circumstances for it occurring by letter.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact myself or Mrs Allen (Headteacher).

Yours Sincerely

Miss Lumsden
Deputy Headteacher and SENCo

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