



# **AGS Positive Handling Policy**

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## 1. Rationale

Arcadia Global School is committed to fostering a safe, supportive, and respectful environment for all students and staff. This policy outlines the use of positive handling strategies, including reasonable physical intervention, as a last resort to ensure the wellbeing of all individuals. Staff are authorised to use positive handling only in exceptional circumstances, in line with UAE legislation, UK BSO, and KHDA regulations.

## 2. Definition of Positive Handling

Positive handling refers to a proactive and structured approach to managing challenging behaviours. It includes a range of strategies such as de-escalation techniques, verbal intervention, and, when absolutely necessary, minimal physical intervention to prevent harm. Any intervention must be reasonable, proportionate, and necessary.

## 3. When Positive Handling May Be Used

Positive handling is used only when it is essential to:

- Prevent a student from harming themselves or others.
- Protect staff or other students from harm.
- Prevent serious damage to property.
- Maintain a safe and orderly learning environment.

Any use of positive handling must be for the shortest time necessary and must cease as soon as the risk has been mitigated.

## 4. Strategies to Minimise the Need for Physical Intervention

Arcadia Global School promotes preventative measures to reduce the likelihood of physical intervention, including:

- Clear behaviour expectations and positive reinforcement.
- Early identification of triggers and de-escalation techniques.
- Use of personalised support strategies for Students of Determination (SofD) and those with Special Educational Needs (SEND).

## 5. Reasonable Force and Types of Positive Handling

The term 'reasonable force' covers a broad spectrum of actions, including:

- **Guidance & Support:** Leading a student by the arm to guide them safely.
- **Restrictive Physical Intervention:** Used only in extreme situations where there is an immediate risk of harm.
- **Protective Physical Intervention:** Blocking a student's path or physically interposing between individuals.

Staff must always prioritise de-escalation and use the least restrictive means possible.

## 6. What Positive Handling Must Not Include

- Infliction of pain or injury.
- Any action that restricts breathing.
- Contact with sensitive areas of the body.
- Forcing a student into a room alone and locking the door.

## 7. Procedures for Implementing Positive Handling

- Staff should remain calm, communicate clearly, and continue to offer reassurance.
- Assistance should be sought from other colleagues.
- Any handling should be for the minimum duration required.
- The student's wellbeing, breathing, and state of distress must be monitored at all times.

## 8. Recording and Reporting Incidents

All incidents involving positive handling must be recorded in detail on the MyConcern system as a self-referral under staff safeguarding. Reports must include:

- The names and ages of the students involved.
- The location, date, and time of the incident.
- The nature of the risk and the intervention used.
- Details of any witnesses.
- The outcome of the intervention and any follow-up actions.

The Principal or Designated Safeguarding Lead must be informed immediately following an incident. Parents should be contacted as soon as possible to discuss the situation and next steps.

## 9. Staff Training and Responsibilities

- Relevant and selected staff will receive training on de-escalation techniques and positive handling.
- The Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead oversee policy implementation and compliance.
- All staff must adhere to this policy and ensure interventions align with safeguarding best practices.

## 10. Conclusion

Positive handling is used only as a last resort and always in the best interests of the student. Arcadia Global School remains committed to a proactive, preventative approach that fosters a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment.

## 11. Legal and Policy Framework

This policy aligns with:

- **UAE Child Protection Law (Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 – Wadeema's Law)**
- **KHDA Safeguarding Framework**
- **BSO Standards for Behaviour and Welfare**
- **UK Department for Education Guidance on Reasonable Force (2013)**

## 12. Related Policies

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the below Policies.

- *Code of conduct* [AGS Code of Conduct](#)
- *Behaviour* – [AGS Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy](#)
- *Complaints procedure* – [AGS Feedback and Complaints Policy](#)
- *Counselling* – [AGS Counselling Policy](#)
- *Equality and Diversity* – [AGS Equality and Diversity Policy](#)
- *School clinic policies* – [AGS School Clinic Policies](#)

### **13. Review and Monitoring**

This policy is reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure compliance with legislation and best practice.

**Policy Implemented: August 2024**

**Policy Review date: July 2026**

**Policy Responsibility: Designated Safeguarding Lead / Principal**

**Version: 1**