

## Behaviour Policy and dealing with extreme behaviour

### **Statement**

At Newquay Forest School (NFS) we recognise the importance of promoting acceptable behaviour. We believe that all children/ young people have the right to expect positive approaches and behaviour towards them which foster self esteem, respect, tolerances and self control. Behaviour which injures people emotionally or physically or damages property must be managed in an appropriate manner. By promoting these beliefs we endeavour to ensure everyone; children, young people, staff, and our natural environment are kept safe, treated fairly and all are considerate to everyone and everything.

The programme seeks to improve physical and mental well being, promote self discipline and promote an appreciation of others ,their feelings and their environment. Children/ young people to understand that different behaviour demonstrated (positive / negative) results in different outcomes and possible consequences. Staff are encouraged to model, reinforce and promote positive behaviour and discourage negative behaviour.

NFS will do this by;

### **Explaining responsibilities**

NFS staff will ensure that young people are regularly reminded that they alone are in control of themselves. They will be reminded that if they are not in control of themselves then they are 'out of control', which will mean that measures will be needed in order to ensure that they are kept safe.

### **Praise and encouragement**

NFS staff will praise and encourage the positive behaviours and those qualities such as kindness, thoughtfulness, tolerance, perseverance, resilience and concentration and ensure that the children/ young people can see that this positive behaviour is not only acknowledged but appreciated.

## **Reasoning**

We will reason and discuss with the child/ young person why they should or should not do something. This should help them to relate the behaviour to any consequences.

## **Safety rules**

Rules will be set to ensure the safety of children/ young people and the NFS Staff .  
Examples where safety rules are essential are for; being around the fire & fire lighting, using tools/ Forest School equipment (ropes, shelters, natural resources, swings), staying within the site boundaries.

## **Applying the rules**

NFS will apply communicate these safety rules consistently and fairly. This will be done by:

Informing the child/ young person of the safety rules.

Informing the children why we have the safety rules.

Informing the staff of the rules & how to apply them.

## **NFS Staff**

We expect NFS staff to set a positive example to the children by:

Regularly examining their own conduct.

Listening carefully to children/ young people and value what they have to say.

Give children/ young people clear and consistent explanations of the limits required in their explanations.

Allow children/ young people to express their choices.

Acknowledge children's/ young peoples feelings and encourage them to express themselves verbally or creatively.

Respecting children/ young people and each other.

Being mannerly.

Remembering children / young people learn by example.

## **Avoiding punitive measures**

Any 'punishing behaviours' are strongly and actively discouraged. It is important that NFS staff consider their own motives and emotional state when dealing with a highly charged situation and wherever possible look to find ways to add space for everyone involved to calm themselves down before attempting to deal with the situation at hand. NFS staff should never use punishment as a way of dealing with behaviour issues. Staff should give time to agree on the best course of action that is caring and kind, that encourages learning through natural consequences and care should be taken to ensure that this process is carried out with the best interests of the young person in mind, whilst also considering any SEMH needs or learning difficulties.

## **Preventing socially unacceptable/ extreme behaviours**

### **Positive behaviour management**

All NFS staff will adopt a positive approach to improving behaviour in order to reward effort and application, and to build self-esteem. NFS will work in partnership with those who know the child to:

- Help uncover why this child/ young person behaves as he or she does and try to understand the factors that influence this child/ young persons behaviour.
- Identify early warning signs that indicate foreseeable behaviours are developing.
- Any behavioural plans/ strategies should meet the individuals needs and encourage a child/ young person to make positive choices and develop self-control and support staff to develop the skills to manage difficult situations competently and sensitively.
- Where necessary carry out a individual risk assessment in order to protect the young person and others from harm.(The behaviour management plan and risk management strategy should be shared with all those responsible for the well being of the child/ young person).

This approach will help to ensure early and preventative intervention are implemented. It should reduce the incidence of extreme behaviours and make sure that the use of physical intervention is rare.

### **If or when a child/ young persons demonstrates extreme or violent behaviour**

NFS acknowledge that, on occasion, staff may find themselves in unforeseen or emergency situations when they have no option but to use reasonable force to manage a crisis. It is recommended that:

- Before using force - staff attempt to use diversion or diffusion to manage the situation
- When using force - staff must use techniques and methods with which they are familiar and confident with.
- In exceptional circumstances (where permitted techniques are ineffective or NFS staff are unfamiliar with the action they should take) – NFS staff must manage the situation as best they can to comply with Section 550A of the Education Act 1996.

Staff should always report and record use of physical force that occurs in unforeseen or emergency situations .

The term ‘reasonable force’ covers the broad range of actions that involve a degree of physical contact with a child/ young person. Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a child/ young person to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a child/ young person needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.

‘Reasonable in the circumstances’ means using no more force than is needed. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing in a child/ young person’s path, or active physical contact such as leading a child/ young person by the arm away from their focus .

Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a child/ young person under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when child/ young person is fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.

NFS staff will always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the child/ young person.

### **Who can use reasonable force?**

When deemed the only available remaining route, NFS staff have can use reasonable force. It can also apply to people whom the NFS has temporarily put in charge of a child/ young person such as unpaid volunteers or the parents of the child/ young person in question.

### **When can reasonable force be used?**

Reasonable force can be used to prevent a child/ young person from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.

In a school, force is used for two main purposes – to control pupils or to restrain them.

The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

The following list is not exhaustive but provides some examples of situations where reasonable force can and cannot be used.

NFS can use reasonable force to:

- Prevent a child/ young person accessing an area where allowing the a child/ young person to do so would risk their safety or that of the staff.
- prevent a a child/ young person from attacking a member of staff or another a child/ young person, and
- restrain a pupil a child/ young person risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

### **NFS cannot:**

- Use force as a punishment (EVER) – it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.
- Use force to search a child/ young person without consent, however staff can use appropriate methods with the consent of the parents and with clear explanation given to the child/ young person to conduct a search for the following “prohibited items”:
  - knives and weapons
  - alcohol
  - illegal drugs
  - stolen items
  - tobacco and cigarette papers
  - fireworks
  - pornographic images
- any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property.

Examples of when reasonable force may be required with a child/ young person participating in the Life Track- Nurture Programme.

Deliberately harming/ attacking themselves with tools or natural resources available to them,

Deliberately harming/ attacking others with tools or natural resources available to them,

Putting themselves and others at risk by not respecting and following the safety rules, ie around the fire or when using NFS equipment

If a child/ young person complains when force is used on them?

All complaints about the use of force should be thoroughly, speedily and appropriately investigated.

Where a member of NFS staff has acted within the law – that is, they have used reasonable force in order to prevent injury, damage to property or disorder, they are encouraged to video evidence the search and/or to carry out a write up explaining what took place immediately after.– this will provide a defence to any criminal prosecution or other civil or public law action.

When a complaint is made the onus is on the person making the complaint to prove that his/her allegations are true – it is not for the member of staff to show that he/she has acted reasonably.

Suspension must not be an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force. NFS must consider carefully whether the circumstances of the case warrant a person being suspended until the allegation is resolved or whether alternative arrangements are more appropriate.

### **Physical contact with a child / young person.**

It is not illegal to touch a child/ young person. There are occasions when physical contact, other than reasonable force, with a pupil is proper and necessary.

Examples of where touching a pupil might be proper or necessary:

- When walking together over difficult terrain
- When comforting a distressed child/ young person;
- When a child/ young person is being congratulated or praised;
- To demonstrate how to use a different tools and FS techniques;
- To demonstrate exercises or techniques to take part in a FS activity ;
- To give first aid.