



Behaviour Policy Appendix

Use of the safe Room

The use of the safe room at The Link is an extension of existing interventions for a whole range of needs, and operates with the best interests of the pupils as its guiding principle to safeguard and respect the 'Duty of Care'. The design and effective use of the room encourages the safety of pupils having difficult moments so that the risk of causing harm to themselves, peers or staff is reduced.

The safe room has been tailor-made and designed to be a safe space for pupils who need time to rest and recover from an incident that may have put themselves or others at risk of harm. The room contains safe padded walls and floors to reduce the risk of potential injuries to both pupils and staff. Therapeutically, it provides a calming environment, giving the pupil an opportunity to control their frustration and anger by removing them from any distractions or influences that might further increase these emotions.

Though the safe room can be used as a safe space for physical intervention, pupils are encouraged to use the room for a calming space themselves if they feel they are anxious and not ready to manage the demands of a classroom environment. The safe room is never locked and staff members are requested to stand by the open door or enter the safe room with a child whilst they are calming. A window in the door of the safe room can be used to check on the safety of the pupil and staff member and for the staff member to request additional support if necessary. If in extreme circumstances it is considered safer for the child to be in the room on their own while calming then this should be identified as a specific caveat for the individual child as part of their risk assessment and should always be agreed by parents.

All pupils have an individual risk assessment which if necessary outlines specific considerations for that pupil in relation to physical intervention. These are updated on a termly basis, or more frequently if specific issues arise. Where the safe room is considered a useful tool for a child's safe management this should be outlined in the individual risk assessment. In an emergency situation, staff will inevitably need to make a dynamic risk assessment, which will include a judgement of the capacity of a child at that moment to make a safe choice. Good parenting and childcare is about ensuring that children have the ability to make their own choices and decisions whenever they have the capacity to do so, however sometimes staff will need to make decisions and take action that endeavour to keep the child safe from harm. In loco parentis, we need to ensure that our first priority is a child's safety.

When considering a pupil's dynamic risk assessment, if there is a temporary period of incapacity that may place a pupil at risk of significant physical or emotional harm, staff may need to use physical intervention as one of the measures to protect the pupil. When it comes to protecting pupils, staff are encouraged to consider what they would want somebody else to do if that was their child - this helps to direct staff towards best practice.