



**British International School
of Timisoara**

We Provide the Foundation on Which Our Children Can Flourish

School Policies

Positive Handling policy

Approved by: Head of School Date: May 2019

Last reviewed by: School Leadership Team Date: Sept 2020

Next reviewed by: School Leadership Team Date: May 2021

Positive Handling policy

General

The British International School of Timisoara (BIST) is a coeducational private school following a British based curriculum and accepting children aged between 4 and 16. The school will grow gradually, and we will start admitting children at Key Stage 5 in the academic year 2022 – 2023.

The British International School of Timisoara will offer its students an international experience through a British-based curriculum adhering to the guidelines of the Department for Education in England, Council of British International School and assessed by Cambridge Assessment International Education. Our qualified, internationally experienced and dynamic educators will teach all subjects in English, with the exception of the lessons of Romanian, which are taught by qualified and engaging local teachers.

Our Vision

*We provide the Foundation on which our Children can Flourish
Inspiring our students to Learn and Live with Purpose*

Our Mission

Building a community of learners where students are given meaningful opportunities to learn, experience, grow, succeed and excel in all areas of their academic and personal development

Our Core Values

*We Think, We Explore and We Learn
We Listen, We Respect and We Care
We Speak Up, We Participate and We Strive*

At BIST we want to ensure that all members of our community understand and adhere to our school ethos and values. Rules and regulations will be in place to protect all members of the community and to give everyone equal opportunities for development and progress.

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to explain the BIST policy with regards to positive handling of students.

Aims

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other policies and not as a 'stand-alone' policy.

The Education Act 1996 forbids corporal punishment, but allows all teachers to use reasonable force in order to prevent a student from:

- Harming himself or others
- Seriously damaging property
- Committing a criminal offence
- Acting in a way that is counter to maintaining good order and discipline at the school
- Injury (or harm to self or others) as actual or grievous bodily harm, physical or sexual abuse, risking the lives of or injury to self or others by wilful or reckless behaviour and self-poisoning.

Designated Staff and Procedure

The legal framework states that any member of the teaching staff can use positive handling to restrain students, when the situation warrants such an action.

*BIST is committed to child protection and safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all students.
We expect staff, parents, volunteers, visitors and the students to share this commitment.*

Positive Handling policy

Positive Handling

The school recognises that this may be necessary, however, where possible, **designated** members of staff should be called upon in the event of an incident, as soon as possible.

The “Designated Staff” list will be reviewed at the beginning of each academic year, with staff being given the opportunity to remove themselves from the list if they so wish.

Procedure

Where positive handling may be required any members of the School Leadership Team should be alerted immediately.

The member of the School Leadership team informed will ask for assistance from at least two designated members of staff.

Where designated members of staff are teaching, other SLT members should provide supervision of classes.

Whenever possible positive handling should only occur when witnesses are present.

Once a student is positively handled, they should be taken to a quiet room so the student can be calmed.

Staff accompanying the student must have a means of communication e.g. Mobile Phone

Ideally two designated members of staff must always remain with the student, until the student’s parents/carers have been contacted. If a judgement is made that a student needs time alone to calm down, adult supervision can be removed from the room as long as a door is left open and a colleague waits in the corridor to support if required and ensure the area is free from other students and staff.

Principles Relating to the Use of Positive Handling

Positive Handling must only be used as a last resort when other strategies have failed. It must serve to defuse or prevent a violent, or potentially violent, situation. It must not be used purely to force compliance with staff instructions when there is no immediate risk to people or property.

Staff should have good grounds for believing that immediate action (Positive Handling) is necessary in order to prevent a student from injuring himself or others, or causing serious damage to property.

Where possible, staff should take steps in advance to avoid the need for positive handling, e.g. through dialogue and diversion. The student should be warned orally that positive handling will be used unless he/she desists.

Positive handling must not be used in anger. When it becomes apparent that the student is not responding to verbal instructions and a violent incident is imminent, the member of staff, wherever possible, should call for assistance before engaging in positive handling.

When it becomes necessary to positively handle a student, the member of staff must, if possible, continue to talk to the student in a calm manner, offering choices and time for the student to become calm.

The age and competence of the student must be considered in deciding what degree of intervention is necessary.

Only the minimum force necessary, to prevent physical injury or damage, should be applied. Care must be taken to avoid inflicting any unnecessary pain or injury.

Positive handling must not involve deliberately painful or dangerous procedures. It must:

- Never impede the breathing, blood supply or be applied to the genital areas;
- Never touch intimate areas;
- Whenever possible avoid holding the head, throat or fingers;
- Be discontinued as soon as the situation is deemed safe;
- As soon as it is safe, restraint must be gradually relaxed as the student regains self-control;
- A student must never be asked to restrain another student.

Procedures related to use of Positive Handling

BIST is committed to child protection and safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all students. We expect staff, parents, volunteers, visitors and the students to share this commitment.

Positive Handling policy

The circumstances and reason for using positive handling must be recorded immediately, or as soon as possible, but ideally no later than the next working day.

The member of staff must inform the Head of School as soon as possible of the incident.

The student's views should also be recorded as soon as possible, preferably on the same day.

The Head of School should discuss the incident with the teacher within 24 hours.

Following the incident, the student should be counselled on the reasons why it was necessary to restrain him

Students will be interviewed about the reasons that led to the incident and the circumstances that followed. The interviewer must be a senior member of staff who was not directly involved in the incident.

Staff should be provided with opportunities to discuss incidents involving positive handling and their subsequent feelings. Where the teachers need further advice/training, the Head of school should take prompt action to see that it is provided.

Parents/carers will be informed when positive handling has been used and will be given the opportunity to discuss the matter with the school.

Review

This policy will be reviewed by members of the School Leadership Team on yearly basis, or every time there is a change in the procedure.