



Sensory Room Protocol

Key Document Details

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Overview

This Policy has been informed by DCSF Guidance 2002, on use of restrictive physical intervention and all practice should cohere to these guidelines.

Description and Purpose

A Sensory room within The Peak Academy is an area which provides a focus and pleasant withdrawal area or retreat. There are designated areas, and other quiet/ withdrawal rooms throughout school.

Sensory rooms are to be used for the following:-

- As a quiet, distraction free 1:1 or 1:2 area with varying degrees of privacy by having the doors open or closed.
- As a withdrawal/retreat which pupils may choose to use when offered by an adult, or not – to calm down in a quieter area until they are ready to re-join the class.
- As an area where pupils can retreat/be guided to, prevent harm to themselves/others, prevent damage to property and keeping young people Focused.

Procedures for Use

- Use of the Sensory room must not be seen as punishment or sanction for non-compliance. The Sensory room may be used as part of a de-escalation strategy as detailed in pupil's Individual Behaviour/Person Handling Plan.
- Whenever a pupil is in the Sensory room, a member of staff must monitor by direct observation.
- Pupils may be offered and encouraged to use the Sensory room when they are showing signs which may precede an emotional outburst.
- Some pupils will be encouraged to use the Sensory room as a "chill out" area when they become stressed or angry.
- The use of a Sensory room will be identified in the pupil's IBP – which will be shared with parents and agencies where appropriate
- In cases of extreme and dangerous behaviour where the safety of either the pupil or other members of the school are compromised, the Sensory room can be temporarily secured whilst the pupil remains observed.

Links to other policies:

Behaviour Safeguarding