

DfE removes running round a field as a sanction

By Richard Curtis

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For immediate release

Southampton, Hampshire – In a low key move, the Department for Education yesterday removed the recommendation that schools to punish pupils by making them run round the field. Guidance that allowed teachers to use physical punishment, like running up and down stairs, has been removed on the orders of Education secretary Nicky Morgan.

In their February 2014 publication *Behaviour and discipline in schools*, teachers were told that in the event of a misdemeanour they could consider “Extra physical activity such as running around a playing field”

In a move seemingly prompted by a campaign from runner, Education Secretary Nicky Morgan has said in a letter to David Moorcroft, a long-distance runner “I share your view that it [using exercise as a punishment] threatens to have a negative impact on the sport and on the view young people take of it. “

Child behaviour expert Richard Curtis says “giving children physical punishment has not been the norm for many years, quite how the DfE expected schools to enforce it bemused me. Sanctions should always be appropriate and should help the child or young person to learn from their mistake. It's great to see that the DfE have realised the folly of their words and started to deal with the guidance that is based in the last century.”

Richard's company, The Root Of It, who provide special needs support to schools have launched a phone line to give staff in schools advice about how to manage behaviour, plus give advice on inclusion and special needs. Richard says “many teachers don't know what to do as a sanction and need to know what is reasonable. School staff who have spoken to us have asked about what is appropriate and also about the causes of poor behaviour, we give them the confidence to be able to manage their classes.” Kim Thornton, Headteacher at Boxgrove Primary in West Sussex says “No question is ever too small or big. The staff have enjoyed the access to this support network - that reassurance knowing there is someone to speak to has been invaluable.” Details can be found on vine.rootofit.com.

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About The Root Of It

The Root Of It was founded in April 2013 to help children with complex needs and disabilities succeed. Richard Curtis has brought together a team of professionals to provide a wrap-around service for schools that includes Clinical Psychology, behaviour advice, Social Work, family support work, Educational Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Play Therapy, Counselling and support for low attenders. Richard says "Poor behaviour is a symptom of an underlying difficulty, just like good behaviour is a symptom that a child's needs are being met. The Root Of It work as a team to address the underlying difficulties." The Root Of It provide support to schools, families, early years settings and organisations. For more information, please visit <http://www.rootofit.com>.

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