



Physical Intervention Policy

Approved by:	Melvyn Booley (CoG)	Date: 26/09/2022
Last reviewed on:	01/09/2021	
Next review due by:	01/09/2023	

In school, Physical Intervention can take many forms and does not always involve restraint. Physical Restraint is infrequently used as a last resort to safeguard all children and staff within the environment.

Physical Contact is generally used for four different purposes –To regulate, reassure, redirect and restrain pupils.

- **Redirection** can mean either passive physical contact (e.g. standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path) or active physical contact (e.g. leading a pupil by the hand or arm, or ushering a pupil to a safe space by placing a hand in the centre of the back or using age appropriate strategies).
Regulation and Reassurance refers to Positive Touch, intensive interaction and age appropriate nurturing strategies with a child that can support a child's sensory and or emotional regulation. (Positive Touch can include light and or deep pressure strategies such as stroking or a tight reassuring squeeze. Similarly, intensive interaction refers to the active modelling of desired behaviour for example sitting appropriately with peers.)
- When members of staff use 'restraint' they physically prevent/ restrict a pupil from continuing what they were doing after they have been told to stop. The use of restrictive restraint techniques are only used in extreme circumstances.

Minimising the need to use Active Physical Contact and Restraint

The requirement to use Physical Contact ensures child and school safety.

As the use of active physical contact and restraint should only be a last resort, our school minimises this possibility by creating a safe, orderly and supportive school environment that lessens the risk and severity of disregulated behavioural outbursts by adopting positive behaviour management strategies. Team Teach (an accredited positive behaviour management training provider) has provided staff with de-escalation strategies that are always used in the first incidence.

Staff authorised to use Active Physical Contact and Restraint and Training

The staff authorised to use Active Physical Contact and Restraint are any member of staff who has had **Positive Handling** training as listed in Appendix A. These strategies may be used where the pupil (including a pupil from another school) is on the school premises or elsewhere in the lawful control or charge of the staff member (for example on a school visit). All staff authorised to use Active Physical Contact and Restraint are trained by the accredited **Positive Handling training (Team Teach)** on a 2 yearly cycle.

All other Staff

All school staff members have a legal right and duty of care to use Physical Contact and reasonable force to prevent pupils committing a criminal offence, injuring themselves or others or damaging property, and to maintain good order and safety.

Members of staff **should not** put themselves at risk. An individual would not be seen to be failing in their duty of care by not using Physical Contact and reasonable force to prevent injury, if doing so threatened their own safety.

Deciding whether to use Physical Contact and/or Reasonable Force

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use **reasonable force** to prevent a pupil from:

- committing a criminal offence (or, for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil);
- causing personal injury or damage to property; or
- prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

There is no statutory definition of 'reasonable force'. Whether the force used is reasonable will always depend on the circumstances of individual cases. Deciding on whether the use of force is justified will depend in part upon the context in which the misbehaviour takes place. The force used must be proportionate to the consequences it is intended to prevent. The degree of force used should be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result. Use of force could not be justified to prevent trivial misbehaviour.

Some examples of situations where Physical Contact and/or reasonable force might be used are:

- to prevent a child from physically harming a member of staff, another child, or themselves.
- to stop a fight between two or more children;
- to prevent a child causing deliberate damage to property;
- to prevent a child causing injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or object;
- to ensure that a child leaves an environment where the child persistently refuses to follow an instruction to do so to ensure safety;
- to redirect a child that seriously disrupts the learning and safety of others within the classroom setting, wider school community or offsite activity, such as a school visit.

The judgement on whether to use Physical Contact and what strategies to use should always depend on the circumstances of each individual child.

In the case of children with **SEN and or additional behavioural needs** where it is known that physical control and intervention is more likely to be necessary an Individual Positive Behaviour Support Plan (PBSP), Individual Risk Assessment is created and or Physical Invention Action Plan based on specific needs and in response to the risks identified and created. This is reviewed regularly.

In these instances, parents/carers are made aware the individualised programme in place for their child and the increased likelihood and potential that the above strategies may be used (See Appendix B) to ensure transparency and best practice.

In the unlikely event that a child that has not been identified as requiring a Positive Behaviour Support Plan but does require Physical Contact or Intervention as their behaviour poses a significant risk to themselves, others or the environment a dynamic risk assessment of the situation will be completed and a proportionate response will be implemented by staff. The incident will then be reported, recorded and reviewed; and appropriate action plan with be drawn up.

Recording, Reporting and Monitoring significant incidents

Procedures are in place for **recording, reporting, monitoring and informing parents/carers of, significant incidents** where a member of staff has used Physical Contact on a child. In determining whether incidents are **significant**, we consider:

- The child's behaviour and the level of risk presented at the time.
- The Physical Contact/ Intervention used and whether it was proportionate in relation to the behaviour.
- The effect on the child and or the member of staff

Following an incident that resulted in Restrictive Physical Intervention:

- The staff member who used physical restrictive restraint would complete an entry in the numbered log book.
- A First Aider (that had not been part of the incident) would complete an accident/ observation form for the child.
- The Head teacher would also inform the parents/carers. Parents/carers would **not** be given a copy of the incident record as a matter of course, but would be told when and where the incident took place, why it was decided that restrictive physical intervention force had to be used, the strategies used to try to avoid having to use restrictive physical intervention force, what intervention force was used, whether there were any injuries sustained and what follow-up action (support and/or disciplinary) was being taken in relation to their child.

Post-incident support (for both staff and pupils)

Following an incident in which restrictive physical interventions are employed, both staff and pupils are given separate opportunities to talk about what happened, when ready, in a calm and safe environment. This reflective opportunity is designed to explore, discover and resolve the cause and effect on all parties involved. This process is **not** designed to apportion blame/punish. If any injury or severe distress was caused to either party, immediate necessary attention would be given.

Complaints and allegations

Should a concern, complaint or allegation arise regarding physical intervention, this would be addressed through the procedures outlined in the Safeguarding and Complaints policies.

Monitoring and review

It is a statutory responsibility of the governing body to ensure that a procedure is in place, and is followed by staff. Any significant incidents would be reported on and recorded termly at Full Governing Body meetings. This policy will be reviewed in line with the policy review cycle.

Appendix A:

Positive Handling Trained Staff

Eimear Davis (Feb 2022) Lucy Timbrell

(Feb 2022)

Natalie Cheetham (Feb 2022)

Louise Pearson (Feb 2022)