

Willerby Carr Lane

Primary School



Physical Intervention Policy

POLICY MANAGEMENT

Approved by	Full Governing Body
Date approved	16.10.23
Effective date	16.10.23
Next review date	Autumn 2025
Version Control	The most up to date version of this document is held on the school's intranet

Aims

Good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure the well-being and safety of all pupils and staff. It is also acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, staff may need to take action in situations where the use of reasonable force may be required.

Our staff will view physical intervention or restraint of pupils as a last resort when all other behaviour management strategies have failed or when pupils, staff or property are at risk. If pupils are behaving disruptively or anti-socially, every effort will be made to manage behaviour positively to prevent a deterioration of the situation and to restore a safe, secure environment.

Our staff will understand the importance of listening to and respecting pupils to create an environment that is calm and supportive especially when dealing with pupils who may have emotional and behavioural needs that may increase their aggression.

All our staff will understand the importance of responding to the feelings and well-being of the pupil, as well as to the behaviour itself.

Definitions

Reasonable force

Physical intervention will involve the minimum degree of force necessary for the shortest period of time to prevent a pupil harming himself, herself, others or property;

- the scale and nature of any physical intervention must be proportionate to both the behaviour of the individual to be controlled, and the nature of the harm they might cause.

Physical Contact

Situations in which proper physical contact occurs between staff and pupils, e.g. in the care of pupils with learning disabilities; in games/PE; to comfort pupils.

Physical Intervention

This may be used to divert a pupil from a destructive or disruptive action, for example guiding or leading a pupil by the hand, arm or shoulder with little or no force.

Physical Control/Restraint

This will involve the use of reasonable force when there is an immediate risk to pupils, staff or property. It is important to note that the use of 'reasonable force' should be seen as a last resort. All such incidents must be recorded and stored on CPOMs.

The level of compliance from the pupil determines whether or not the interaction is an intervention or a control/restraint.

School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

Authorised staff

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force. This power applies to any member of staff at the school. It can also apply to:

- people whom the headteacher has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as
- unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.

Training

Our Team attend relevant training on physical intervention and de-escalation techniques as required.

In cases where it is known that a pupil may, on occasions, require physical intervention, we will seek advice from East Riding Behaviour Support and ensure that appropriate training is provided for relevant staff (both teaching and support staff). In these instances, a positive handling plan will be drawn up with the support of the SENCo and parents.

Types of Incident

Incidents fall into three broad categories:

1. Where action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury.
2. Where there is a developing risk of injury or significant damage to property.
3. Where a pupil is behaving in a way that is compromising good order or discipline.

Acceptable measures of physical intervention

The use of any degree of force can only be deemed reasonable if:

1. It is warranted by the particular circumstances of the incident;
2. It is delivered in accordance with the seriousness of the incident and the consequences which it is desired to prevent;
3. It is carried out as the minimum to achieve the desired result;
4. The age, understanding and gender of the pupil are taken into account;
5. It is likely to achieve the desired result.

The school can use reasonable force to:

- remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and
- restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

Schools cannot:

- use force as a punishment – it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

Wherever possible, assistance should be sought from another member of staff before intervening.

The following approaches are regarded as reasonable in appropriate circumstances.

- standing between pupils;
- blocking a pupil's path;
- leading a pupil by the hand or arm;
- ushering a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back;
- in more extreme circumstances, using appropriate restrictive holds, which may require specific expertise or training

Recording and Reporting

The headteacher, Deputy Head Teacher or SENCo must be informed as soon as possible on the day of the incident.

Parents/ carers will be informed on the same day.

Where physical intervention has been used to manage a pupil, a record of the incident (using the attached form) will need to be made on CPOMS.

Monitoring of incidents

Whenever a member of staff has occasion to use reasonable force, it must always be recorded on CPOMS.

Monitoring of incidents will help to ensure that staff are following the correct procedures and will alert the Headteacher to the needs of any pupil(s) whose behaviour may require the use of reasonable force. This process will also address patterns of incidents and help to evaluate trends that may be emerging.

Monitoring of incidents will take place on a regular basis and the results used to inform planning to meet individual pupil and school needs.

Complaints

The availability and application of a clear policy about reasonable force and early involvement of parents should reduce the likelihood of complaints but may not eliminate them. Any complaints about staff will be dealt with under the School's Complaints Procedure.

If an allegation of excessive force is made against a teacher, the school should refer to the "Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff" guidance (see the 'Further sources of information' section below)

Log
No:

Positive Handling Record and Response



Child's name				Date:									
Location of incident													
Staff involved				Witnesses									
Start time of incident	Duration of restraint	Injuries to child?	No										
		Injuries staff?	No										
Nature of Risk (<i>tick as appropriate</i>)			Criminal offence										
Injury to person			Serious disruption										
Damage to property			Absconding										
The incident: Describe antecedents then describe the incident													
<p><i>Name and signature of person who recorded incident;</i></p>													
<i>Please tick the level of potential risk</i>													
Low		Medium		High									
Verbal abuse		Slap		Punch		Bite		Pinch		Spit		Kick	
Hair grab		Neck grab		Clothing grab		Body holds		Arm grab		Weapons /missiles			
Other: <i>please describe</i>													
Who/What was at risk?													
Diversion, Distractions and De-escalation attempted													
Verbal advice and support		Firm clear directions		Negotiation		Limited choices		Distractions		Diversion/ Diffusion			
Reassurance		Planned ignoring				C.A.L.M. talking/Stance		Takeup time		Withdrawal offered			

Withdrawal directed		Transfer adult		Reminders about consequences		Humour		Success reminders			
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Physical Intervention Strategies Attempted

Help hug		Cradle hug		Double elbow						
Sitting Double Elbow (single person)		Single Elbow (two person)		Sitting Single Elbow (two person)				Small Child Escort		

Other (please describe)

How was this action in the best interests of the child?

Do you think PHP needs amending? If yes why?

Summary of de-brief conversation

Name and Signature of Adults Involved	Date
Witnesses as stated above	

Monitoring: *All reports logged*

SLT Evaluation Comment	Signature	Date



POSITIVE HANDLING PLAN

Name

DOB

ENVIRONMENTS AND TRIGGERS

Describe the situations which have led to a dangerous incident in the past.

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RISK - Level of potential risk.

Low

Medium

High

Describe precisely what might happen

Slap

Punch

Bite

Pinch

Spit

Kick

PREVENTION

Describe any changes to routines, personnel or environment which might reduce the risk of this happening.

DIVERSION AND DISTRACTIONS

Describe interests, words, objects etc which may divert attention from an escalating crisis.

RECORDING AND NOTIFICATIONS REQUIRED

Head teacher	
Parents/Carers	
Social Care (if applicable)	

Educational Psychologist/AT	
Doctor / Nurse	
Others:	

Name	Status	Signed	Date

Further sources of information

Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and other Staff

Willerby Carr Lane Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

Use of reasonable force Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies. Department for Education (2013)