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# Physical Intervention Policy

2025-2027



**Willerby Carr Lane Primary School,**  
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## Aims

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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.

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# 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 Leadership 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:

Where action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury.

Where there is a developing risk of injury or significant damage to property.

Where a pupil is behaving in a way that is compromising good order or discipline.

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## Acceptable measures of physical intervention

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

- It is warranted by the particular circumstances of the incident;
- It is delivered in accordance with the seriousness of the incident and the consequences which it is desired to prevent;
- It is carried out as the minimum to achieve the desired result;
- The age, understanding and gender of the pupil are taken into account;
- 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
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## 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)

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