



Physical Intervention Policy

Updated by PDBA

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Control version overview sheet

Page Number, Section	Alteration or Addition (Date)
Page 2, Statement of Intent	Addition (13 th May 2021)
Page 4, Responsibilities	Addition (25 th May 2021)
Page 5, Types of Incidents Where Physical Intervention May Be Required	Alteration (13 th May 2021)
Page 6, Reporting & Recording	Alteration (27 th February 2021) Underlined Addition (13 th May 2021)
Page 6, Prevention of further physical interventions	New (13 th May 2021)

Schools have a 'duty of care' to their pupils. This may involve all staff having to handle pupils to prevent them harming themselves, others or damaging property.

Aim

This policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils and for volunteers working within the school. The policy is intended to explain the school's arrangements for physical intervention. Its contents are available to parents and pupils.

The policy has been developed in response to the recommendations and guidance the Education Act 1996 (Section 4) as well as LA briefing 002/07 Pupil Restraint Guidance) and Use of Reasonable Force Advice (Reviewed July 2015)

The policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies relating to interaction between adults and pupils and in particular the Behaviour Policy.

Definition of Physical Intervention

Physical Contact

Situations arise in which physical contact may occur between staff and pupils, e.g. in games or P.E. or in the supervision of children. It may be appropriate to place a very young child on the knee of an adult if the child is very distressed or ill. At all times members of staff will act professionally and in accordance to the Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy.

Physical Intervention

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

Restrictive Physical Intervention

This will involve the use of physical intervention/reasonable force when there is an immediate risk to pupils, staff or risk of significant damage to property. There is no legal definition of reasonable force.

Acceptable Measures of Physical Intervention

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

- (a) It is warranted by the particular circumstances of the incident
- (b) It is delivered in accordance with the seriousness of the incident and the consequences which it is intended to prevent
- (c) It is carried out as the minimum to achieve the desired result
- (d) The age, level of understanding and gender of the pupil are taken into account
- (e) It is likely to achieve the desired result.

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

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

Statement of intent;

Dovelands Primary School believes that good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure good order in school. It is recognised that the majority of pupils in our school respond positively to the discipline and control practised by staff. This ensures the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff in school. 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.

Every effort will be made to ensure that all staff in this school:

- Clearly understand this policy and their responsibilities in the context of their duty of care in taking appropriate measures where reasonable force is necessary and
- Are provided with appropriate advice to deal with these difficult situations.

Any intervention must be in the paramount interests of the child and or used to prevent behaviour that is prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline in the school.

Staff have a responsibility to follow this policy and to seek alternative strategies wherever possible in order to prevent the need for physical intervention.

The use of any degree of force can only be deemed reasonable if non-physical (psychological alternatives) are inaccessible or have not worked. De-escalation strategies should always be tried first.

Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort when all other behaviour and de-escalation strategies have failed or when pupils, staff, good order or property are at risk, but should be reasonable and proportionate.

Everyone attending or working in this school has a right to:

- Be treated with respect and dignity;
- Learn and work in a safe environment;
- Be protected from harm, violence, assault and acts of verbal abuse.

Pupils attending this school and their parents have a right to:

- Individual consideration of pupil needs by staff who have a responsibility for their care and protection;
- Expect staff to undertake their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the school's policies;
- Be informed about school rules, relevant policies and the expected conduct of all pupils and staff working in school;
- Be informed about the school's complaints procedure.

Responsibilities

The school will do all they can to ensure that pupils understand the need for and respond to clearly defined limits which govern behaviour in the school.

We rely on the support of parents to ensure the good behaviour of their child and that he/she understands and follows the school's Behaviour Policy.

Staff Authorised to Use Restrictive Physical Intervention

By reason of their conditions of service, the Headteacher can authorise all teachers to use restrictive physical intervention. All Classroom Assistants may also be authorised to use restrictive physical intervention. Authorisation is not given to volunteers or parents. The staff team at Dovelands have received 'Team Teach' training from the Leicester City SEMH Team. **Before renewing training, the head teacher will decide which staff need to be trained or retrained depending on the needs of the children.**

Staff aim to create:

- A calm, secure atmosphere throughout school and use consistent approaches;
- Opportunities for pupils to earn praise/rewards. It is important to praise good behaviour as often as possible;
- Opportunities to identify problem behaviour or triggers in order to avoid creating further difficulties i.e. by anticipating behaviour before it occurs;
- Awareness of pupil behaviour so that attention seeking behaviour is seen but ignored where it is safe to do so;
- Opportunities for discussion with the pupil where discussion can take place in order to set targets designed to deal with the difficult or attention seeking behaviour;
- Opportunities for explanation of the action/consequences to the pupil;
- Opportunities for regular contact with parents /carers to share plans and spread the strategies over a 24-hour period.

- Opportunities to liaise with outside agencies for support and involvement in the programme to ensure that joined up approaches are in place.

Every effort will be made to resolve conflicts positively according to the Behaviour Policy and without harm to pupils or staff, property, buildings or the environment.

Types of Incidents Where Physical Intervention May Be Required

Section 550A of the Education Act 1996 allows teachers and other persons authorised by the Head teacher to have control or charge of pupils to use such force as is 'reasonable' to prevent a pupil from doing the following:

- (a) committing a criminal offence (including behaving in such a way that would be an offence if the pupil were not under the age of criminal responsibility)
- (b) putting themselves or others at risk of injury
- (c) causing **extensive damage to property**
- (d) engaging in any behaviour detrimental to maintaining good order and discipline

For example;

- A pupil attacks a member of staff or another pupil;
- Pupils are fighting;
- A pupil is engaged in, or is on the verge of committing, deliberate **extensive damage** or vandalism to property;
- A pupil is causing, or is at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by mis-use of dangerous materials or objects;
- A pupil is running in a corridor or on a stairway in a way which he or she might cause an accident or injury to himself, herself or to others;
- A pupil absconds from a class or tries to leave school (NB this will only apply if a pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or at school).
- A pupil persistently refuses to obey an instruction to leave a classroom;
- A pupil is behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting a lesson.
- Exclusion

Any such measures will be most effective in the context of the overall ethos of the school, the way in which staff exercise their responsibilities and the behaviour management strategies used.

Reporting and Recording

All such incidents will be recorded online using the Local Authority physical intervention form by the adults involved in the intervention. The form should be completed on the same day as the incident.

https://my.leicester.gov.uk/AchieveForms/?mode=fill&consentMessage=yes&form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Process-acc061fd-7bca-41d4-af84-8c0389e418c0/AF-Stage-e08f28ff-336f-4911-ab41-8cc5c21651ec/definition.json&process=1&process_uri=sandbox-processes://AF-Process-acc061fd-7bca-41d4-af84-8c0389e418c0&process_id=AF-Process-acc061fd-7bca-41d4-af84-8c0389e418c0

There are 5 pages (sections A-E) to complete, at the end of which the form is automatically emailed to the SEMH Team when submitted.

If adults involved in the intervention wish to record the incident as two individual logs, they can do so, but the date and time of the incident recorded must be the same.

A PDF copy of the form must be attached to the pupils CPOMs file under the category physical intervention.

Parents, Carers and Social Workers should be informed either in writing or verbally dependant on the professional judgement of the Head Teacher.

Any marks or bruises caused by the intervention are always reported to Parents, Carers and Social Workers on the same day.

Prevention of further physical interventions

If a child with SEND has been involved in a physical restraint, advice and guidance from the SENCO and relevant outside agencies is sought to prevent any further incidents.

If a child has been involved in more than one physical intervention, advice and guidance from the SENCO and Social, Emotional & Mental Health Team is sought to prevent any further incidents.

Risk Assessments

Records of incidents should be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. Risks should be reviewed and assessed after each incident to inform any procedural or training needs as well as pupil needs that are apparent.

Complaints

The availability 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 received by the Headteacher from parents, staff or any other persons regarding alleged ill treatment of pupils or injuries received by a student during the course of physical intervention will be investigated fully by the Headteacher.

The Chair of Governors will be informed of complaints.

Children who have been subject to physical intervention will be given the opportunity to discuss the incident with a member of staff at the first reasonable opportunity following the incident. Where appropriate, these discussions will involve parents. Such discussions will offer pupils/parents and school fresh opportunities to work together and to renew relationships that may be strained by the incident. Pupils will be informed of ways in which their behaviour could change in order to prevent a repetition of the incident.

Parents may not request that individual pupils be exempt from physical intervention, as outlined in the policy, as this policy will be implemented on health and safety grounds