



St Mary's & St Peter's C of E Primary School

Physical Intervention and Physical Contact with Children Policy

Date:	September 2018	Review Date:	September 2020
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This policy has been adopted with reference to the Department for Schools guidelines (2013) on the use of the physical restraint of pupils.

This non-statutory guidance says that schools 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 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 another member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and
- Restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves, others or property through physical outbursts.

Our school does not support the routine use of physical interventions with children. We are committed to ensuring that all our children and staff are able to live and work in a supportive and caring environment, demonstrating a mutual respect, so that teaching and learning can take place.

In the rare circumstances that it becomes appropriate to use physical intervention, it will be used as an act of care and not punishment, and staff will follow this policy. All staff, whilst taking any of the action detailed in this policy, will ensure that the child understands that this is a last resort and that the security of the child should be continually maintained

School Ethos, Vision and Values

Our school is a Church of England School and works in partnership with our two local parish churches, St Mary with St Albans and St Peter and St Paul's. We aim to reflect the values, traditions and beliefs of the Christian Faith and therefore our Spiritual Values underpin everything that we do.

St Mary's and St Peter's Church of England Primary School's vision is to offer our pupils scope to achieve 'life in all its fullness' (John 10.10). This is achieved by ensuring the wellbeing of all pupils in relation to: wisdom, knowledge and skills; hope and aspiration;

co-humanity and living well together; dignity, humility and respect. The two great commandments given by Jesus will underwrite the life of our school; they are to 'love God' and to 'love your neighbour as yourself'. It is our aim for both of these instructions to be evident in the whole life of the school, in the relationships between all members of the community, pupils, staff and parents, and also in the management of behaviour.

These outcomes are embraced in every aspect of school life: personalized teaching and learning approaches; access to ICT across the curriculum; support for emotional wellbeing; assessment for learning; partnership with parents/carers, other schools and external agencies.

St Mary's and St. Peter's school fully recognises its moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. Our Physical Intervention and Physical contact with children policy is one of a range of documents which set out the safeguarding responsibilities of the school. We wish to create a safe, welcoming and vigilant environment for children where they feel valued and are respected.

The school adheres to KCSiE 2018 which states the term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a young person needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. (p.27)

Procedures for staff before and during any physical intervention

Before physically intervening, staff will:

- Remain calm and attempt to instil calm
- Tell the child to stop and explain to them what will happen if they do not
- Use a range of non-physical alternatives aimed at calming or defusing situations in order to prevent further escalation e.g. continuing to speak and listen to the child/children; using appropriate eye contact during any dialogue; distracting, cajoling or humouring the child where appropriate; reasoning with and offering appropriate choices to the child/children.

Sometimes a teacher should not intervene in an incident without help. For example, when dealing with physically large children, or with groups of children, or if the teacher believes he/she may be at risk of injury, the teacher should remove other children who may be at risk and summon assistance from a colleague or colleagues, or where necessary telephone the Police. The teacher should tell the child/children that he or she has sent for help. Until assistance arrives the teacher should continue to attempt to defuse the situation through talking to the children and trying to prevent the incident from escalating.

When physically intervening, staff will:

- Use the minimum amount of force required to achieve the desired result.

- Tell the child that physical restraint will stop as soon as it is no longer necessary
- Continue to use a range of non-physical alternatives aimed at calming or defusing situations in order to prevent further escalation, as above.
- Remove the rest of the class when a child persistently refuses to leave or offers any kind of resistance to being removed from a classroom. Communication with the child concerned can continue in isolation.

Ways in which staff may use reasonable force

DFE Guidance (2013) advises that the term Reasonable Force 'covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point during their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils'. KCSiE 2018 states 'Reasonable force' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'

During a potentially dangerous situation staff may be required to use:

Passive physical contact:

- Physically step in between children
- Block a child's path

Active physical contact:

- Hold a child
- Lead a child by the hand or arm
- Guide a child away by placing a hand in the centre of the back
- In more extreme circumstances use more restrictive holds.

Staff are not permitted to act in a way that might cause injury, for example by:

- Holding a child round the neck, or by the collar, or in any other way that might restrict the child's ability to breathe
- Slapping, punching, pushing, pulling or kicking a child
- Twisting or forcing limbs against a joint
- Tripping up a child
- Holding or pulling a child by the hair or ear
- Holding a child face down on the ground

The use of any degree of force is unlawful if the particular circumstances do not warrant the use of physical force. Physical force cannot be justified in a situation that could clearly be resolved without force, for example to prevent a child from committing a trivial offence.

Section 550A of the Education Act 1996 permits adults who have lawful charge or control of children to use reasonable force to control or restrain them. These include: Teachers; LSAs; TAs; SMSA.

The following staff have been trained in the use of physical restraint: John Logan, Justine Bateman and Marie Richardson.

Training

Our school will ensure that all permanent and long term supply staff have access to this policy and understand:

- How and when to intervene
- How to prevent, defuse and/or resolve disputes, including the appropriate use of anger management, de-escalation and conflict resolution skills and techniques.

Appropriate training will be provided to all school-based staff, in line with the Local Authority policy and guidelines.

Planning for the needs of individual children

Our school aims to identify, in consultation with parents/carers, any child whose behaviour is potentially thought to require a physical intervention response, and to consider the needs of those children in relation to:

- Any individual medical, social, behavioural, learning or cultural factors
- Any SEND Support Plans, Pastoral Support Programmes or Personal Education Plans which support the children.

If a member of staff thinks that a particular child may at some time need such intervention, the circumstances and requirements will be presented for discussion at an appropriate meeting of relevant staff.

Other physical contact with children

Our school believes that some use of appropriate, positive physical contact with children can contribute to its development as a safe and friendly school. Some physical contact may be necessary or unavoidable when staff work with:

- Younger children who may need encouraging or guiding
- Children with SEND who may need physical prompts or help
- Children requiring first aid
- Children receiving coaching in sport or as part of another curriculum activity
- Children in distress

Our staff will make professional and sensitive judgements about the nature and extent of their physical contact with children. We will take into account cultural sensitivities and gender differences, the needs of all children who may be particularly vulnerable following previous trauma or abuse.

Record-keeping

Our school keeps a record of all incidents where physical intervention involving the use of force against resistance from a child has been necessary (please see Appendix example of written record sheet). Behavioural incidents are also recorded electronically using Integris. **There is a section for Pupil voice in order to hear the child's point of view.**

The Headteacher or nominated senior member of staff will be told at the earliest possible time after an incident. The written record will be completed within one working day and discussed with the nominated person who will also decide how and when to report the incident to the children's parent/carer. A copy of the written record will also be placed in the Child Protection file and/or SEN file if one exists for that child.

We will discuss the incident with any children or staff who were present and, where appropriate, collect a written account from them. In line with our commitment to working with parents, we aim to maintain an open discussion during any relevant procedure which may follow an incident. We will regularly review the number and type of incidents in which physical intervention has been necessary. This will be used to ensure that there is adherence to this policy and to identify improvement needed in other policies and procedures of the school.

Sharing of information and complaints

All members of the school community should know about this policy. Confidentiality is important and should be maintained to the greatest possible extent. This is to enable governors and staff involved in any consequence or complaint to do so without having acquired hearsay knowledge.

Complaints following a dispute about the use of physical intervention by an adult should, in the first instance, be referred to the Headteacher. This will generally result in an investigation, which will take account of the written or verbal reports which have been collected. Where disputes cannot be resolved informally within school or by the governors, complaints should be pursued in accordance with the school's complaints procedures.

Implementation, monitoring and review

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that all staff are familiar with Richmond upon Thames Local Authority's guidelines and this school policy.
- Ensuring that all relevant staff have received training in non-physical interventions in order to reduce the need for physical intervention.

- Ensuring that named personnel have received up-to-date training in physical intervention techniques
- Monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the school's policy.

Effectiveness

We believe this policy will be effective only if we ensure consistency across the school by regular monitoring of the policy, teaching and learning, planning and resources/support.

Headteacher:		Date:	September 2018
Chair of Governing Body:		Date:	

APPENDIX

Physical intervention model incident recording form

This form should be completed following an incident involving physical intervention and kept by the school for future reference

Name(s) of children(s):	Date:	Time:
Ethnicity:	Gender: M/F	
Nature of the incident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal abuse • Threatening behaviour • Refusal • Kicking • Punching • Fighting • Other (please specify) 	Involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Children(s) • Property • Equipment • Other (please specify) 	

Why was physical intervention required? (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The circumstances that led to the incident	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When and where the incident took place	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The name(s) of any staff or children who witnessed the incident	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The circumstances and reason for using physical intervention	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The danger perceived	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the incident began and progressed, including details of:• The child's behaviour, response• What was said by each of the parties involved	

- The steps taken to defuse or calm the situation
- The degree of force used, and any restraint used
- How it was applied and for how long; details of any injury

Pupils voice

Any comments made from the child:

Further action taken by the Headteacher (circle as appropriate)

H&S Accident Form completed Y/N Child Protection investigation Y/N Racial Incident Record Y/N	Parent/Carer contacted Y/N Police/others informed Y/N
Signature of member of staff reporting:	Signature of Headteacher:
Date:	Date: