



Physical Intervention Policy

Reviewed by Governors January 2024
Curriculum and Standards Committee

To be reviewed at least every four years
Review Date January 2028

Chair of Committee print _____

Chair of Committee signed _____ Date _____

Introduction

Our school aims to provide a safe, caring and inclusive environment for all staff, children and families and we strive to promote positive attitudes to learning and behaviour for all.

The school policy and procedures for behaviour management should ensure that the need to use force is minimised. The positive ethos across the setting together with a strong PSHE focus within our curriculum supports this approach.

It is acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, staff may need to take action in situations where the use of reasonable force may be required. Some children, because of the nature of their difficulties, will need additional help to manage their behaviour which may result in the use of physical intervention of that child is in a crisis situation i.e. in danger of harming themselves or others.

We acknowledge that physical techniques are only part of a whole school approach to behaviour management. Reasonable force will only be used as a last resort when all other behaviour management strategies have failed or when pupils, staff or property are at risk. Physical Intervention to restrain is only ever used by those staff who have received the appropriate training.

This policy has been developed in line with DfE guidance 2013 entitled 'Use of Reasonable Force, Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies'. The Head Teacher will make every effort 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. The Head Teacher will ensure that specific staff (across all phases) are provided with appropriate training to deal with more difficult situations (Management of Actual or Potential Aggression training – MAPA).

Definitions

Physical Contact

It is not illegal to touch a pupil. There are occasions when physical contact, other than reasonable force, with a pupil is proper and necessary. Examples of where touching a pupil might be proper or necessary:

- Holding the hand of the child at the front/back of the line when going to assembly or when walking together around the school;
- When comforting a distressed pupil;
- When a pupil is being congratulated or praised;
- To demonstrate how to use a musical instrument;
- To demonstrate exercises or techniques during PE lessons or sports coaching; and
- To give first aid.

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

Reasonable Force

1. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
2. Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
3. 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
4. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.
5. Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.
6. 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.

When can reasonable force be used?

Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder. In a school, force is used for two main purposes – to control pupils or to restrain them. The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

The following list is not exhaustive but provides some examples of situations where reasonable force can be used. Reasonable force can be used 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.

Force cannot be used as a punishment – it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

If it is felt that a situation can no longer be managed safely by school, then a decision may be made by a senior member of school staff to the police for assistance.

Power to search pupils without consent

In addition to the general power to use reasonable force described above, head teachers and authorised staff can use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances to conduct a search for the following "prohibited items":

- knives and weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs

- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property.
- Force cannot be used to search for items banned under the school rules.

Authorised staff

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force (Section 93, Education and Inspections Act 2006) if required, for example, to intervene and break up a fight or divert a pupil from disruptive action. In this school Crisis Prevention Safety Intervention (CPSI) trained staff are authorised to use reasonable force in order to restrain pupils. Staff authorised to restrain and/or move a pupil in a restraint hold include all staff who have had CPSI training and refresher training. They are authorised as long as their training is in date. Where possible, two members of staff should be made available to restrain and/or move a pupil in a restraint hold. Where a member of staff is not trained, as long as there is one trained member of staff and they take the lead, giving instruction and the other member of staff is competent, they would be authorised. Authorisation is not given to volunteers or parents.

Behavioural Risk Assessments and Management Plans

The SENCo will ensure that any child in school likely to be subject to the use of physical interventions has a behavioural risk assessment completed and an agreed behaviour management plan developed to support the child and provide information about staff authorised to intervene. Parents will need to be involved in the writing of the plan and outside agencies may be sought to offer support and advice with this process.

Staff from Local Authority working within the school

Support Services will have their own policies for care and control of pupils but all staff will, whilst on school premises, be expected to be aware of and operate within the policy of this school. It is the Head Teacher's responsibility to ensure that this is the case.

Key points relating to Physical Restraint

- School staff have a power to use force and lawful use of the power will provide a defence to any related criminal prosecution or other legal action.
- Suspension should not be an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force.
- Senior school leaders should support their staff when they use this power.

Training

Training for all staff will be made available and will be the responsibility of the Head Teacher. All members of the Senior Leadership Team will be CPSI trained where appropriate. Prior to the provision of training, guidance will be given on action to be taken. Policies and procedures for this policy and other related policies, such as the behaviour policy can be found in the KS1 resource room and on school server for staff and Governors to access. Training will be provided as part of on-going staff development.

We acknowledge that physical techniques are only a part of a whole school approach to behaviour management and, as such, the school utilises a whole school Behaviour Recovery approach in order to deal consistently, effectively and in a timely manner with disruptive behaviours to prevent occurrences of behaviour that may require physical intervention.

The school uses the Crisis Prevention Safety Intervention (CPSI) training programme for staff. The programme is delivered by a certified, licensed instructor and aims to provide the best 'Care, Welfare, Safety and Security' for individuals in our care, even in violent moments as well as having the same philosophy for staff as they learn the techniques and skills. The physical interventions taught within the programme have been independently risk assessed and are compliant with the UK national Physical Interventions Accreditation Scheme. In line with this policy, the programme stipulates that physical intervention must always be used as a last resort and only where there is a prevailing or perceived, actual or significant risk of harm.

Recording

Where physical intervention has been used to manage a pupil, a record of the incident will be recorded on CPOMS. A health and safety Accidents and Incident form will need to be completed and returned to Sandwell's Health and Safety Team if injury has occurred to staff or pupils during the incident. Where staff have been involved in an incident involving reasonable force they should have access to counselling and support.

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 by the Head Teacher.

Monitoring of incidents

Whenever a member of staff has occasion to use reasonable force, this will always be recorded on CPOMS. Monitoring of incidents will help to ensure that staff are following the correct procedures and will alert the Head Teacher 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.