



Physical Intervention Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour Policy.

Underlying Principles

- We support students to learn to manage their own behaviour
- We focus on preventive strategies and de-escalation techniques, reducing the need for physical intervention.
- When physical intervention is necessary it is used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.

Restrictive Physical Intervention

Restrictive Physical Intervention becomes necessary when all alternative options have been exhausted and it is reasonable to conclude that it is the best possible way to prevent someone coming to harm. This could be through:

- Bodily contact (e.g. holding a student's hands to prevent them from hitting someone)
- Environmental Change (e.g. use of time out with an adult).

Restrictive Physical Intervention is only acceptable when used to prevent:

- self-harming
- injury to others
- significant damage to property.

Restrictive Physical Intervention is only used:

- by trained staff who are authorised by the school to carry out physical intervention and have taken part in the two day Team Teach training.
- when other strategies have been used to try to prevent or de-escalate the behaviour
- if the risks of using physical intervention are judged to be lower than the risk of not doing so.

It must be remembered that:

- minimum force is used and for the shortest period of time
- physical intervention avoids contact that might be mis-interpreted as sexual
- physical intervention is an exceptional rather than routine method of behaviour management.

Preventive Strategies:

- high staff ratio
- well trained staff
- Behaviour Management Plans for individual students

- an interesting and engaging curriculum
- working collaboratively with parents/carers to use consistent behaviour management strategies in home and school
- see Behaviour Policy.

Procedures after each incident:

Any incident of restrictive physical intervention is logged in the RPI Log kept in the Headteacher's Office. Pages in the log are numbered. The incident is written up on the same day as the incident. The log shows:

- the date and time of the incident
- what led up to the incident
- what strategies were used to avoid physical intervention
- the reason for using physical intervention
- a description of the physical intervention
- the duration of the physical intervention
- student/s involved
- staff involved
- how the incident was resolved
- any student injury
- any staff injury
- any students' views
- any follow up
- when carers have been told and by whom
- signature of the Headteacher.

The log is reviewed on a regular basis by the Headteacher and the Senior Management Team. Summaries are provided to governors in full governor meetings.

Additional support.

There are rare occasions when a young person is so distressed and unable to manage their own behaviour that a ground hold needs to be used in the student's best interests. In this case a team who have been specially trained in this area will be called and actions consistent with Team Teach practice will be deployed. All such incidents are recorded and reviewed regularly.

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