

**HAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Policy for**  
**Physical Intervention**  
**in School**

**C. Fisher**  
**March 2016**

# POLICY ON PHYSICAL INTERVENTION

## DERBYSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY HAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Policy Statement

The Governing Body of Hayfield Primary School is committed to ensuring and maintaining a safe working environment for everyone at the school. The Governing Body is also committed to the safety and welfare of all children and young people who attend the school. To fulfil this commitment the Governing Body has agreed a Policy for Behaviour & Discipline.

This Policy on Physical Intervention has been agreed by the Governing Body in the context of their Policy on Behaviour & Discipline and the knowledge, context and requirements of relevant legislation, advice and guidance. In this respect the Governing Body is aware that Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 outlines the powers of “authorised staff” to use reasonable force.

This policy aims to give all members of the school community clear guidance so that any physical intervention that they undertake is carried out in a way that supports the values and principles described above. In particular, it aims to describe the circumstances in which restrictive physical intervention is an appropriate response and how staff at school will fulfil their responsibilities in those circumstances.

The Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring that staff and parents are aware of the policy. She will ensure that any necessary training/awareness-raising takes place so that staff know their responsibilities.

The Governing Body of Hayfield Primary School therefore requires that all Authorised Staff **carry out physical intervention only as an exceptional measure in extreme circumstances. Physical intervention will be used only as a last resort when all other alternatives have been unsuccessful.**

Examples of extreme circumstances are:

- preventing physical assault;
- stopping a distressed child or young person who has run from the school building from crossing a busy road;
- protecting children or young people whose safety and welfare is being challenged.

The only circumstances in which physical intervention is permissible are to prevent a child or young person from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- Committing any offence (or, for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil);
- Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself); or

- Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Authorised staff should only use the degree and type of physical intervention which is appropriate and reasonable in the circumstances of the situation. Examples of appropriate actions by staff are included in this policy and associated Guidance on Physical intervention.

The Governors at Hayfield Primary School recognise that physical touch is an essential part of human relationships. In our school, adults may well use touch to prompt, to give reassurance or to provide support in PE. This is not a physical intervention when used in such a way, but must be used sensitively and appropriately, in line with our Child Protection and Safeguarding protocols.

To use touch/physical support successfully, staff will adhere to the following principles. It must:

- be non-abusive, with no intention to cause pain or injury;
- be in the best interests of the child and others;
- have a clear educational purpose (e.g. to access the curriculum or to improve social relationships);
- take account of gender issues.

At our school the headteacher, Claire Fisher, is responsible for ensuring that relevant staff are aware of any pupil who finds physical touch unwelcome. Such sensitivity may arise from the pupil's cultural background, personal history, age etc.

### **What Do We Mean By 'Physical Intervention'?**

It is helpful to distinguish between:

Definition	Example	
Non-restrictive physical interventions. (As already stated touch/physical contact is a small but important and natural part of teacher-pupil relationships in our school).	Either where the child's movement is not restricted or where the child is held supportively but such that they will be released immediately should they so wish.	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guiding/shepherding a person from A to B</li> <li>• use of a protective helmet to prevent self-injury</li> <li>• removal of a cause of distress, such as adjusting temperature, light or background noise</li> </ul>
Restrictive physical interventions	Prevent, impede or restrict movement or mobility. Restraint. To use force to direct.	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• isolating a child in a room</li> <li>• holding a pupil</li> <li>• blocking a person's path</li> <li>• interpositioning</li> <li>• pushing/pulling</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of arm cuffs/splints to prevent self injury</li> </ul>
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and between:

Emergency/unplanned interventions	Use of force which occurs in response to unforeseen events.
Planned interventions	In which staff employ, where necessary, pre-arranged strategies and methods which are based on a risk assessment and recorded in an individual plan for the management of the behaviour of a pupil.

Staff need to be aware that their employment imposes on them a duty of care in order to maintain an acceptable level of safety. This duty of care has been defined and tested in a variety of case laws such as Ashton and Ward 1992. It is acknowledged that the behaviour of children and young people can on occasions become dangerous and physical intervention may be required. This is inevitably a high-risk action. Written guidelines cannot anticipate every situation and, therefore, the sound judgement of staff at all times is crucial. This may also include not getting personally involved if this would mean putting yourself at direct risk, but could include summoning relevant assistance. It is not acceptable to simply do nothing.

### **MINIMISING THE NEED TO USE FORCE**

It is the expressed aim of Hayfield Primary School to avoid the use of force to physically restrain pupils in all but the most extreme circumstances. In order to do this the school will implement the following strategies to ensure the use of force is minimised:

- i) Create a calm, orderly and supportive school climate that minimises the risk and threat of violence of any kind. The school will have clear rules in place regarding acceptable behaviours and these will be clearly communicated to pupils and consistently, fairly and openly applied.
- ii) Ensure that there are effective relationships between pupils and staff where pupils can be engaged and participate in ideas to create a calm and orderly environment.
- iii) Ensure all staff are fully aware of the school ethos regarding the use of force as a last resort and ensure staff have the necessary skills to use alternative de-escalating strategies.
- iv) Use early and appropriate intervention with individuals or groups who are recognised as potentially at risk of involvement in violence.
- v) Use materials from our PSHE scheme of work (ASK About Life) across the school to develop social and emotional skills that pupils need in order to understand and manage their emotions appropriately and resolve conflict.
- vi) Run intervention programmes such as Positive Play and Socially Speaking to provide support for individuals in the development of their social and emotional skills.

- vii) Recognise that challenging behaviours are often foreseeable and have plans in place to deal with these eventualities.
- viii) Monitor all incidents where force is required to ensure any trends are identified so alternative strategies can be put in place to try to prevent the use of force in similar situations should they occur.
- ix) Produce risk assessments for individuals whose behaviour may cause a need for physical intervention.
- x) Whenever practicable issue a warning that force may need to be used before using it.
- xi) Plan for staff development in behaviour management so staff attain the confidence and skills necessary to manage conflict.
- xii) Work closely with parents, Behaviour Support and our local MAT to effectively support pupils with BESD.

### **When A Restrictive Physical Intervention May Be Used**

Restrictive physical intervention is rarely used at Hayfield School. It is never a substitute for good pro-active and reactive behaviour management. Staff will be required to show that other methods of managing an incident have been attempted if a restrictive physical intervention has been used, unless, of course, the intervention was an emergency, e.g, immediate risk of injury to the pupil or others.

However, RPI will be necessary when its aim is to prevent a pupil from:

- injuring themselves or others, e.g. pupils playing in a dangerously rough manner; hurting another child; head-banging; kicking a window etc
- damaging property, e.g. throwing a heavy object at/near to computers, an interactive whiteboard, through a window etc. (Section 93, DCSF guidance 'The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils')

Section 93 also allows the use of force 'to prevent a pupil from engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline...'. However, the use of restrictive physical intervention for this purpose is acceptable only in rare circumstances at Hayfield School. Such examples of behaviour that may warrant physical intervention may include a child throwing things near other people which could cause injury, shouting extremely abusive language and distressing other children, or acting in such a manner that puts himself/herself or others at risk of physical or emotional harm.

In the case of pupils attempting to leave the school premises, staff should only use restraint if the pupil is placing themselves at risk by doing so. Under the Human Rights Act 1998, it is generally an offence to restrict an individual's liberty. However, in order to exercise 'Duty of Care', it may be reasonable to prevent a pupil from leaving school if their emotional state or developmental level suggests that they would pose a risk to themselves by leaving.

### **Who May Use Restrictive Physical Interventions**

Only authorised staff may use restrictive physical interventions within Hayfield School. The term 'authorised staff' means any member of staff who works at the school, or any person who, with the authority of the Headteacher, has lawful control or charge of children

and young people at the school or during school activities off site. Authorisation may be on a long term or short term basis for a specific event, such as a field trip.

At Hayfield, 'authorised staff' include all Teachers, trained Teaching Assistants and trained Midday Supervisors, i.e. those who have lawful control or charge of children at school. It may also include other staff or volunteers who work at the school on a regular, or irregular, basis if they are explicitly authorised by the Headteacher. Authorised persons are named in the appendices attached.

The Headteacher has ensured that authorised members of staff receive information, instruction and training and that an up-to-date list of authorised staff is kept and is known to other staff. A risk assessment for planned restrictive physical interventions has been carried out and precludes certain staff from being authorised to carry out Restrictive Physical Interventions on the grounds of health issues.

### **The Place of Physical Intervention in Hayfield School**

As previously stated physical interventions in the school will only be used in exceptional circumstances.

The school expects that staff will only use force in circumstances where:

- The potential consequences of not intervening were sufficiently serious to justify considering the use of force;
- Achieving the desired result of the intervention by other means had either been tried and exhausted, or are low;
- The risks associated with not using force outweigh those of using force.

In making this judgement the authorised staff are expected to use professional judgement and must be aware of the expressed circumstances where the use of physical intervention is acceptable as outlined earlier in this policy. The Headteacher will ensure all authorised persons are aware of these circumstances.

The two types of physical interventions likely to be required in the school are:

#### **a) Planned Physical Interventions**

These will take place where it is known that a young person is likely to behave in a way that may require a physical intervention (either from prior knowledge before the pupil attends the school or through a history of incidents at the school).

In these cases the headteacher will ensure that:

- an individual plan is in place which takes account of the needs of the pupil and identifies ways of addressing these
- appropriate support services have been consulted and their advice sought
- a physical intervention plan and specific risk assessment for the intervention is in place.

The headteacher will ensure that for these situations:

- The plan includes any known triggers for the pupil’s behaviour;
- The plan includes all strategies to try to control the behaviour without the need to resort to physical interventions;
- The physical interventions that are to be used if necessary and the points at which they are to be used;
- The Behaviour Support Service have been involved in drawing up the plan;
- That parents/carers, staff and, where practical, the pupil has been involved in drawing up the plan and that all are clear about the specific actions the school may need to take;
- That any Special Educational Needs (SEN) and/or disability that the pupil may have and the consequences of these on the plan and risk assessment have been fully considered. This will include seeking medical advice where necessary regarding how restraint could affect a pupil with disability or medical condition.

Once the plan has been drawn up and agreed, the headteacher will ensure that:

- The plan and risk assessment is effectively communicated to all those authorised to use force in the school who need to be aware of it.
- That all those who may be temporarily authorised to use force (e.g. volunteers on school trips are made aware of the plan and risk assessment as necessary).
- That appropriate training on the plan, and the specific restrictive physical interventions is available and that those who require it are made to attend.
- That appropriate resources are available to ensure the plan is effectively implemented.
- That the plan is reviewed on an annual basis or after every intervention (whichever is the soonest) to ensure it is still appropriate.

#### **b) Unplanned Physical Interventions**

These by their very nature are more difficult to deal with and will certainly involve staff making on the spot decisions about whether or not to intervene and indeed the best way to intervene.

The school will attempt to identify situations where these events may predictably occur, (e.g. playground fights, rough play in the playground, serious disruption of a teaching activity), and will put in place agreed protocols to deal with such events. These will be communicated to staff and any necessary training will be provided.

**ALL STAFF MUST BE AWARE THAT THE SCHOOL DOES NOT CONDONE AND WILL NOT TOLERATE THE USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT TO PUNISH OR DISCIPLINE A PUPIL OR TO DELIBERATELY CAUSE PAIN TO OR HUMILIATE A PUPIL. STAFF MUST NEVER USE PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OUT OF ANGER OR FRUSTRATION.**

#### **Methods of Restrictive Physical Intervention**

When a restrictive physical intervention is justified, staff will use ‘reasonable force’. This is the degree of force ‘warranted by the situation’. It will be ‘proportionate to the circumstances of the incident and the consequences it is intended to prevent’. Any method of physical intervention employed must use the minimum force necessary for the minimum amount of time and the physical intervention must:

- Not involve hitting the child or young person;
- Not involve 'punitive' acts such as deliberately inflicting pain on the child; for example, joint locks or finger holds;
- Not restrict the child or young person's breathing; for example, throat or neck holds or pressing the face into soft furnishings;
- Avoid the genital area, buttocks or breasts of the child or young person;
- Avoid the adult putting undue weight upon the child's spine or abdominal area;
- Avoid holding near to or pulling on joints.

During any incident of physical intervention adults must, as far as possible, seek to:

- Minimise the need for, or length of, any physical intervention;
- Lower the child's level of anger or distress during the physical intervention by continually offering verbal re-assurance and avoid fear of injury in the child;
- Cause the minimum level of restriction of movement of limbs consistent with the level of risk to safety and welfare. For example, not restricting the movement of the child's legs when they are on the ground unless flailing legs are likely to be injured or cause injury to others;
- Take account of the potential for accidental injury during the physical intervention by using a method appropriate for the environment in which it is taking place. For example, on a paved surface the adult should seek to avoid placing the child on the ground;
- Work together as a team, with one member taking the lead, and avoid personal risk;
- Exclude any other child from assisting with the physical intervention;
- Avoid moving the child during the physical intervention. It is only justifiable to move a child in situations when remaining in the original location would be more dangerous or distressful to either the child or another person, and the use of minimum force to move the child will prevent further harm or distress.

The Governing Body recognises that there is no legal definition of reasonable force. The Governing Body acknowledges:

- The use of physical intervention is unlawful if the particular circumstances do not warrant the use of physical force. Therefore physical intervention cannot be justified to prevent a child or young person from committing a trivial misdemeanour, or in a situation that could clearly be resolved without physical intervention;
- The physical intervention must be in proportion to the incident and the seriousness of the misbehaviour. Any physical intervention should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired outcome.

The Governing Body is aware that The DCSF Guidance "The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils" provides the following examples of the types of force which staff may use in situations which require physical intervention:

- a) Passive physical contact resulting from standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path.
- b) Active physical contact such as:
  - 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.

The Governing Body recommends that wherever practicable other strategies should be used. These may include:

- Using de-escalation techniques;
- Offering time-out to the child or young person;
- Issuing verbal warnings to the pupils.
- In circumstances where force has to be used then the following basic points should be considered when undertaking the physical intervention as a minimum:
  - ❖ Minimising movement as quickly and as safely as possible;
  - ❖ Holding clothes instead of skin;
  - ❖ Ensuring limbs are held above a major joint if possible;
  - ❖ Avoiding pressure on vulnerable areas such as neck and stomach;
  - ❖ Avoiding pressure on areas which will restrict blood flow;
  - ❖ Avoiding contact with sexual areas;
  - ❖ Sensitivity to the child or young person so that control can be returned to the child or young person as soon as possible.

**Staff who have received specific training on physical restraint must always act in accordance with that training.**

### **Induction and Training**

The Headteacher will ensure all staff are aware of and understand this Policy and the Local Authority's Guidelines on Physical Intervention.

The Headteacher will ensure all staff know the procedures for physical intervention, who incidents should be reported to, and where and how they should be recorded.

All new staff appointed to work at the school will be given an explanation of the school's Policy on Physical Intervention and who is authorised to use physical intervention as part of their induction programme. The Governing Body believes this is particularly important for Newly Qualified and Supply Teachers.

The Headteacher will ensure that all staff receive appropriate training relating to this policy if required and training in methods of physical intervention for authorised staff. This will be organised via the Local Authority Behaviour Support Service, who use PROACT SCIPr as the preferred system for physical restraint.

### **Risk Assessments**

The use of a restrictive physical intervention will be the outcome of a professional judgement made by staff on the basis of this school policy. It is avoided whenever possible and will not be used for staff convenience.

**Restrictive physical intervention will *only* be considered if other behaviour management options have proved ineffective or are judged to be inappropriate (or in an emergency situation).** Before deciding to intervene in this way, staff will weigh up whether the risk of not intervening is greater than the risk of intervening. Any actions will

be carried out with the child's best interests at heart. Physical intervention will never be used to punish a pupil or cause pain, injury or humiliation. For planned interventions where there is a behaviour and intervention plan and specific risk assessment in place, the headteacher will make sure all staff are aware of these. It is the responsibility of every member of staff to ensure they act in accordance with these plans and risk assessments. Additionally staff should make the headteacher aware of any shortcomings in these plans and assessments.

In emergency or unplanned situations staff will need to carry out a dynamic risk assessment based on the circumstances at the time and their professional judgement coupled with the information available in this policy and any training they have received.

Staff are not expected to intervene physically against their better judgement nor are they expected to place themselves at unreasonable risk. In such circumstances, they must take steps to minimise risks, for example, by removing other pupils and calling for assistance.

However, any physical intervention involves a degree of risk; the assessment of the level of risk to the child or young person, themselves, others, and the circumstances of the situation must be considered before deciding to intervene. Staff should think clearly and carefully before acting.

Physical intervention of a child or young person should calm the situation and not lead to greater injury or an escalation of violence. There are many things to consider and the following are examples of factors which could be taken into account when evaluating the risks involved and in determining the techniques to be employed in any particular situation:

- Any known SEN/care or disabilities;
- Individual needs and appropriate systems for clear communication;
- The age, relative physiques, and known medical conditions of both the adult restrainer and the child or young person;
- The relative genders of staff and child or young person;
- The presence of a second, or other adults, available to assist, supervise, and become involved in the physical intervention;
- The opportunity to secure the presence of a second, or other adults;
- Spectacles, hearing aids, jewellery and clothing worn by the child or young person;
- The restrainers capacity to act calmly and systematically;
- The location of the incident and the potential for the physical intervention to be carried out safely;
- The potential outcomes of not intervening;
- Whether other techniques not involving force have been used and not worked.

## **What to Do After the Use of a Restrictive Physical Intervention**

### **Recording Events and Actions**

The Governing Body acknowledges the importance of ensuring accurate and detailed records of incidents of physical intervention are made and kept for future reference.

## **Restrictive Physical Intervention Incident Reports**

The Governing Body and Headteacher will establish arrangements to ensure that all incidents of physical intervention are reported and recorded by the member(s) of staff involved as soon as possible after the event. The incident should be recorded on the attached incident report form (Appendix 3). A copy of this form should be kept securely and confidentially at the School and a copy sent to the Children and Younger Adults Health and Safety Section, marked confidential.

The school considers any of the following incidents to be significant and therefore requires that staff complete an incident record:

- a) Any incident which caused injury or distress to a pupil or member of staff (where an injury is involved the schools accident reporting guidance must also be followed);
- b) Any incident which is sufficiently serious in its own right to require an incident record to be completed (even though there was no apparent injury or distress). Any use of restrictive holds will as an example fall into this category.
- c) Any incident where a written record is needed to be able to justify the use of force. (This is relevant where the staff involved feel the judgement was very finely balanced).
- d) Any incident where a record will help the school to identify and analyse patterns of pupil behaviour or will help to inform future training.
- e) Any incident which involved other agencies e.g. the police.

The form must be completed by the member(s) of staff concerned who should sign and date the record of physical intervention. This is in line with guidance from the DCSF and in order for staff to receive the full backing of the Local Authority the form must be completed. The report must include:

- The name(s) of the child(children) or young person(s) involved;
- The name(s) of the staff involved;
- When and where the incident took place;
- The name(s) of other staff or children or young people who witnessed the incident;
- The reason why physical intervention was necessary;
- How the incident began and progressed, why the physical intervention was used, details of the child's or young person's behaviour, what was said, what steps were taken to defuse the situation, the degree of physical intervention used, how it was applied and for how long;
- The child's or young person's response and the outcome of the incident;
- Details of any injury suffered by the child or young person or others and subsequent medical attention.
- Details of any damage to property;
- A description of any action taken after the incident;
- Records should be reviewed at the end of each term.

The Headteacher or a senior member of staff should be informed of any incident of physical intervention as soon as is practicable.

It is good practice for the school member of staff with lead responsibility for safeguarding (the Headteacher) to check the record and for the school to provide the member(s) of staff involved in the incident with a copy of the final version.

## **Witness Statements**

Where there is an incident and a physical intervention is required statements will be taken from witnesses. This will be carried out by the Headteacher or a senior member of staff as soon as possible after the incident. This should be carried out as quickly as possible so that witnesses do not have the opportunity to influence each other's statement.

## **Follow Up Action**

All senior staff involved must record details of their involvement at every stage, together with details of all follow-up action.

The children and staff involved in an incident of physical intervention will have an opportunity to discuss the matter with The Headteacher or an appropriate senior member of staff.

Any lessons learned as a result of this discussion will be used by the school to update behaviour and restraint plans and risk assessments.

Parents and carers of children involved in an incident of physical intervention will be informed of what has happened to their child and offered an opportunity to discuss this with the Headteacher or a senior member of staff.

Any member of staff involved in an incident of physical intervention may need time to recover and regain their composure. They will also be given the opportunity to discuss how the incident of physical intervention has affected them personally with an appropriate colleague, friend or Professional Association or Trade Union Representative.

For planned physical interventions the risk assessment should be reviewed. For repeated interventions other professional colleagues, e.g. psychologists, should be included in the review. This could result in other actions such as changing timetables, reviewing class groups etc to reduce the risk of incidents and harm to other pupils and staff, such as:

- preparation of individual plans to address a range of needs such as a multi element plan
- avoidance of known triggers
- addressing environmental factors
- changing aspects that maybe contributing to the risk of incidents such as timetables, class groups

## **Handling Complaints**

Complaints about physical contact or intervention will be considered in the light of existing statutory routes of investigation. These are:

- Child Protection (Local Authority advice);
- Disciplinary Procedures (School policies/Local Authority advice).

The Headteacher – in our school, also the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Claire Fisher - will consult with the Authority's Child Protection Manager.

If there are no grounds for continuing with either of these procedures the complaint will be dealt with through the Governing Body's normal Complaints Procedure.

### **Monitoring**

The Headteacher and Governing Body will review the implementation of the Policy on Physical Intervention at appropriate intervals.

All staff will be involved and asked to contribute to the review.

**This policy was approved by the governing body on:**

<b>Review date</b>	<b>Signed by Chair of Governors</b>	<b>Signed by Headteacher</b>

- APPENDIX 1      Staff Checklist
- APPENDIX 2      Handling Complaints and Child Protection
- APPENDIX 3      Incident Recording Form and What to do Guide
- APPENDIX 4      Risk Assessment Process & Form for Pupils with Behaviour Problems
- APPENDIX 5      Staff Training Record Form
- APPENDIX 6      Government Legislation

