



**St Peters CofE Primary Academy**

**Executive Principal: Matthew Seex**

**Chair of Local Academy Committee: Greg Shilton**

St Peter's C of E Academy

# Physical Intervention Policy

Reviewed: May 2024

Next review: May 2025

## Physical Intervention Policy

### School Values and Policies

The school behaviour policy outlines how staff at St Peter's Primary Academy create and maintain good order and relationships through positive approaches. These approaches are successful for the vast majority of the time. This policy on the use of restrictive physical interventions supplements the main behaviour policy. Both should be read in conjunction with the school SEND policy, the health and safety policy and the Child Protection policy. Staff must also be aware of the policy for managing allegations against staff.

### Purpose of this policy

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

### Physical touch

The staff at St Peter's Primary Academy believe 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. 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 academy, the SENDCo, is responsible for ensuring that all staff are aware of any pupil who finds physical touch unwelcome. Such sensitivity may arise when a pupil's cultural background, personal, age etc.

## What do we mean by 'Physical Intervention?'

The definition of restrictive physical intervention adopted by Staffordshire County Council is: "Any form of restrictive intervention, be it physical, mechanical, chemical, environmental or social/psychological interventions, which is designed and used (intentionally or unintentionally) to limit or restrict another's liberty.

## Levels of restrictive physical intervention

Restrictive physical intervention is also categorised into non-restrictive and restrictive interventions.

### Non-restrictive intervention

This is where the pupil can move away from the physical intervention if they wish to. Non-restrictive examples include: -

- Physical presence, non-verbal prompts and directions
- Touch or prompting
- Guiding and
- Disengagement.

### Restrictive intervention

This is where the intervention is intended to prevent, or significantly restrict freedom of movement of an individual. Restrictive interventions generally carry a higher risk and require a greater depth of justification. Example of restrictive intervention include: -

- Escorting and manoeuvring
- Temporary physical containment or holding
- Seclusion
- Full restraint
- Mechanical restraint; and Chemical restraint.

### Reasonable force

There is no legal definition of reasonable force. The use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of the particular incident warrant it. The degree of force used must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and seriousness of the behaviour or the consequences it is intended to prevent. Any force

must always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result over the shortest possible time.

### **When is restrictive physical intervention permissible at St Peter's CofE Primary Academy?**

Restrictive physical intervention is rarely used at St Peter's. However, it will be necessary when its aim is to prevent a pupil injuring themselves or others or to prevent them damaging property.

### **Documenting Restrictive Physical Intervention Strategies**

If it is agreed that a child will require some form of restrictive physical intervention, there must be an up to date copy of written protocol included in the child's behaviour or plan for progress. (See appendix 2).

### **Risk assessment**

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 behavior 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 child or cause pain, injury or humiliation.

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 children and calling for assistance.

### **Who may use restrictive physical intervention?**

All school staff that are trained in using Staffordshire Restrictive Physical Intervention are authorised. Supply staff are not authorised.

Parents and volunteers in the school are not given authorisation. Staff from the Local Authority may have their own policies about the care and control of pupils, but, whilst on the premises, they will be expected to be aware of, and operate within, the

policy of this school. This means that visiting staff will need to ask the Executive Principal or Head of School for authorisation.

### **How staff at St Peter's Primary Academy might intervene**

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 force will always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result and for the shortest amount of time.

Staff will:

- Use the minimum amount of force for the minimum amount of time;
- Avoid causing pain or injury; avoiding holding or putting any pressure on joints;
- In general hold long bones;
- Never hold a pupil face down on the ground or in any position that might increase the risk of suffocation.

During an incident the member of staff involved will tell the pupil that his or her behaviour may be leading to restraint. This will not be used as a threat or said in a way that could inflame the situation.

Staff will not act out of frustration or anger. They will try to adopt a calm, measured approach and maintain communication with the pupil at all times.

In an emergency, staff must summon assistance by sending a pupil to the Executive Principal's office or the main office.

### **The place of restrictive physical intervention within broader behavioural planning**

If, through the school's special needs assessment procedures, it is determined that a restrictive physical intervention is likely to be appropriate to help a pupil make progress, a risk assessment will be carried out following the school's guidelines.

If appropriate, an individual management plan will then be drawn up for that pupil. This plan will aim to reduce the likelihood of the need for restrictive physical intervention as well as describing how such intervention will be carried out. This plan will be discussed with parents/carers. Before implementing the plan, any necessary training or guidance will be provided for the staff involved.

The SENDCo will be responsible for establishing the staff needs and for organising necessary training.

### **What to do after the use of a restrictive physical intervention**

After the use of an unplanned restrictive physical intervention, the following steps will be taken:

- Details of the incident will be recorded by all adults involved immediately on the attached form.;
- Recording will be completed within 12 hours whenever possible. Staff will be offered the opportunity to seek advice from a senior colleague or professional representative when compiling their report;
- Any injuries suffered by those involved will be recorded using the normal school procedures;
- The Executive Principal or Head of School will check there is no cause for concern regarding the actions involved. If it is felt that an action has 'caused or put a child at significant risk of harm' the Executive Principal or Head of School will follow the school's child protection procedures and also inform the parents/carers;
- Parents and carers will be informed by the relevant staff on the day of the incident. Parents/carers will be offered the opportunity to discuss any concerns that they may have regarding an incident;
- Support/debriefing will be available for adults and pupils who have been involved in any incident involving restrictive physical interventions.

Arrangements for recording and informing parents in the case of planned restrictive physical interventions will be followed as agreed beforehand but broadly will follow the same pattern as above. The behaviour lead will use the records kept to analyse patterns of behaviour and so decide whether responses are being effective.

### **Complaints procedure**

Any complaint will first be considered in the light of the school's child protection procedures. If child protection procedures are not appropriate, the school's complaints procedures will be followed.

### **Implementation, Monitoring and Review**

Implementation and monitoring of this policy is the responsibility of the Executive Principal.

Incidents will be recorded using the appendices to the document. The Executive Principal or Head of School will report any use of physical interventions to the Local Academy Committee. This policy will be reviewed at least every three years or sooner if necessary.

**Staffordshire County Council**  
**Restrictive Physical Intervention – Record on Incident**

Name of those involved:	Staff	Pupil
Date of incident	Time of incident	Location of incident
Events leading up to Restrictive Physical Intervention:		
Account of actual incident including actions, methods of intervention, words used and witnesses		
Outcome or resolution of incident		
Follow up actions (advice to parents, support for staff and pupils involved)		
Names of witnesses		
Risk assessment and Restrictive Intervention protocol reviewed:		
Yes/no		
Outcomes		
Record of any injury or property damage:		
Print Name:	Signature:	
Job title	Date	

**Restrictive Physical Intervention form for Staffordshire County Council**

Name of Child		Date of Birth
Address		Gender
Provision		
Medical Conditions		

**Assessment of Risk**

History	
Physical size and strength	
Categories of people exposed	
How could exposure take place	
When and how often could exposure occur	
Possible consequences of exposure	
Benefits of not intervening	
Consequences of not intervening	
Views of all involved (pupil, parent, staff or other agencies?)	



Other information	
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Warning Signs 1- Tension  2- Non verbal  3- Verbal	
Critical moment	
Restrictive Physical Intervention Procedure	
By whom and how often will this protocol be reviewed	Date of next review:

Print name	Signed	Date
Print name	Signed	Date
Print name	Signed	Date
Print name	Signed	Date