

Hillside Primary and Nursery School

A Flying High Trust Academy



Handling / Use Of Force / Physical Intervention Policy

March 2023

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Guidance on Physical Intervention between staff and pupils

All the staff, non-teaching and mid-day supervisors have read the guidance in physical intervention produced by Nottinghamshire County Council 2000

The staff agree on its contents.

The main issues for us are:

At times children need comforting and this can be done. But staff should avoid being alone with the child at such times and such contact should be done in the knowledge of and preferably the presence of other staff.

The legal provisions on school discipline provides members of staff with the power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline in the classroom. (DFE Behaviour and Discipline in Schools 2011.)

Nevertheless staff are expected to exercise good care and control. Where ever possible staff will avoid confrontation.

They will:

- Intervene early
- Appear calm and confident
- Get close and talk quietly
- Avoid an audience
- Restate expectations 'I need you to...'
- Offer choices
- Allow time and space
- Get someone else to take over when they feel that the situation is beyond what they can manage

They will not:

- Shout
- Ask open questions
- Make promises they cannot fulfil
- Make personal comments
- 'back the child into a corner'

Physical intervention

In exceptional circumstances physical restraint may be necessary to prevent serious injury to the child, any other person or damage to property.

The education act, section 93, allows teachers to use reasonable force to control or restrain a child.

93 Power of members of staff to use force

(1) A person to whom this section applies may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances for the purpose of preventing a pupil from doing (or continuing to do) any of the following, namely—

- (a) committing any offence,*
- (b) causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself), or*
- (c) 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.*

(2) This section applies to a person who is, in relation to a pupil, a member of the staff of any school at which education is provided for the pupil.

- (3) The power conferred by subsection (1) may be exercised only where—*
- (a) the member of the staff and the pupil are on the premises of the school in question, or*
 - (b) they are elsewhere and the member of the staff has lawful control or charge of the pupil concerned.*

(4) Subsection (1) does not authorise anything to be done in relation to a pupil which constitutes the giving of corporal punishment within the meaning of section 548 of EA 1996.

(5) The powers conferred by subsection (1) are in addition to any powers exercisable apart from this section and are not to be construed as restricting what may lawfully be done apart from this section.

(6) In this section, “offence” includes anything that would be an offence but for the operation of any presumption that a person under a particular age is incapable of committing an offence.

Physical Intervention may only be undertaken after consultation and in the presence of another adult. However, in extreme situations staff may intervene to prevent a child from injuring themselves and others, or to prevent serious damage to property.

If, as a school, we are aware that a child is likely to behave in such a way that may require physical control or restraint, a behaviour management plan must be prepared. This should address the following:

- Strategies to be employed to avoid physical intervention
- Where necessary the form of physical intervention that will need to be employed:
 - Holding (according to CRB Principals) by two trained members of staff
 - Leading by the hand or arm
 - Shepherding a child away by placing a hand in the centre of the back or leading with a held elbow
 - Blocking a child's path
 - Physically interposing between children

- Parental involvement, where ever possible, in order to ensure that they are clear about the specific action the school might need to take
- Staff involvement (what action has been agreed including any necessary training)
- Additional immediate support mechanisms.

NB In most instances, physical intervention techniques are used by staff who have CRB training. However the absence of accredited training does not preclude a member of staff from using reasonable force where needed

Staff should always consider that there are:

- alternatives to force
- the purpose of intervention is to restore safety
- that only minimum force is to be employed
- that physical restraint should only be used when it is likely to succeed
- that restraint should not continue longer than necessary

Where ever possible physical intervention should be used as a last resort and part of a planned range of strategies. Planned physical intervention must be justified in respect of:

- What is known about the child from a formal assessment – special need or disability
- Alternative approaches that have been made
- A risk assessment
- Related health aspects

Where physical intervention is necessary then staff must ensure that:

- Another adult is present to record what is happening and why
- The incident is logged on
 - Scholarpack if the CRB handling is part of an ongoing behaviour plan
 - the attached form (appendix 1) if the incident is 'a first' and should be reported to parents
 - always should be reported to the head teacher or SLT
 - staff have the opportunity for a break and discussion with SLT

For further clarification:

Keeping classrooms safe for learning and teaching:

Physical Intervention policy Nottinghamshire County Council

Link to Use of Reasonable Force – advice for school leaders, staff and governing bodies

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/f0077153/use-ofreasonable-force-advice-for-school-leaders-staff-and-governing-bodies>

Link to Screening, Searching and Confiscation – advice for school leaders, staff and governing bodies

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/f0076897/screening>

Link to Exclusions Guidance

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/exclusion/a0076478/exclusion-guidance>

Link to Safeguarding

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice/f0076882/ensuring-goodbehaviour-in-schools/allegations-of-abuse-against-staff>

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Link to SEN Code of Practice

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/sen/guidance/a0013160/the-sen-code-of-practice>

[Appendix 1](#)

Physical Handling (CRB) recording document:

Date:

Time:

Staff involved:

Staff witness:

Incident:

Injury to child during CRB holding:

Injury to staff during CRB holding:

None.

Physical handling letter sent home/Parents informed?
No

Yes

Signed:

Signed:

Signed:

Signed:

Headteacher/ SLT member in charge.

CRB trained staff.

CRB trained staff.

Witness to the CRB intervention.