



PHYSICAL INTERVENTION AND RESTRAINT POLICY

<i>Review Programme:</i>	
Policy adopted:	Summer 2021
Date for next review:	Summer 2024
Signed – Headteacher:	P. Campbell

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION AND RESTRAINT

The Governors of Sketchley Hill Primary School are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff who are part of the Sketchley Hill family.

They recognise that all school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing a criminal offence, injuring themselves or others or damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline.

(Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006)

(Section 95 defines the staff to which this power applies).

If a member of staff is required to carry out physical intervention and restraint to a pupil, they should where possible, gain assistance from a trained member of staff (see below). However, it is acknowledged that this is not always possible.

Staff with current Team Teach Training are:

Name	Certificate obtained	Certificate Expires
Jason Cader (DHT)	15 April 2021	14 April 2024
James Tarrant (DHT)	15 April 2021	14 April 2024
Debbie Moore (SENDSCO)	15 April 2021	14 April 2024

The Governors will be guided by the information published by the DFE and any subsequent advice issued by the Local Authority. The guidance is non-statutory.

- It is acknowledged that the use of force or physical restraint should always be a ‘last resort’.
- That it is important to attempt to avoid confrontation and to de-escalate any potential conflict.
- All school staff are encouraged to be fully aware of relevant school policies for the management of pupil behaviour and to adopt a consistent approach to any incidents which occur.
- If a member of staff has, as a last resort, to use physical intervention or restraint methods they will subsequently be required to justify their actions to the Headteacher, and a written report would be required.
- The Governors will support a member of staff who has been forced to use physical intervention or restraint only when all other channels have been exhausted, or an emergency situation requires immediate action.
- Any force used should be reasonable and the minimum required for the shortest possible time to achieve the desired result.
- Account will always be taken of any particular special educational needs of the pupils involved.

The Governing Body will ensure that a procedure is in place for recording each significant incident in which a member of staff uses physical restraint/intervention on a pupil and for reporting these incidents to the pupil's parents/carers as soon as possible after the incident, usually by the Headteacher or delegated senior leader. A Team Teach Red Book is used to record each incident.

The Governors believe that staff have a duty of care both to themselves and to other and they are not expected to put themselves at risk by administering physical intervention or restraint.

It is acknowledged that it is unlawful to use force as a punishment.

This policy will be supported by other school policies already in use –

- The Positive Behaviour Policy
- The PSHCE Policy

The policy:

As a general rule physical intervention and restraint must be avoided.

If it is necessary the following guidelines will be adhered to:

- Staff must have good grounds for believing that physical intervention and/or restraint is necessary.
- The judgement of whether to use force and what force to use will always depend on the circumstances of each case.
- The seriousness of the incident will be assessed by the effect of any likely injury, damage or disorder to all parties involved.
- Physical intervention and/or restraint will only be used after other less intrusive calming methods have been attempted.
- If possible urgent assistance will be called for, at least to gain the presence of a credible adult witness.
- The pupil involved in the incident will be informed that the physical intervention and/or restraint is being applied to prevent harm to themselves or others. If possible ensure that this procedure is witnessed by other adults.
- Physical intervention and/or restraint will be an act of care and control, not punishment.
- Only reasonable force will be used.
- The duration will be the minimum necessary.
- Strategies will be in place for pupils with a known problem that have already been identified.
- Staff should never act out of anger or frustration.
- Risk assessments will have been made for staff engaged in working with pupils with an identified problem ensuring that potential hazards will have been considered and if possible eliminated.
- All incidents will be reported immediately to the Headteacher, or appropriate SLT member. They will acknowledge the seriousness of the situation by responding to the incident promptly and thoroughly.

- A written report will be prepared and recorded.
- The parent/carer will be advised of the incident, including any background information pertinent to the incident.
- Where a member of staff has been assaulted or suffers some injury as a consequence of using reasonable force or restraint, that staff member will be advised to contact the union for further advice.

Staff training:

The Governors recognise the need for appropriate staff training to ensure that all staff are given the ability to deal with any potential incidents before the challenging behaviour has developed.

Staff should also be trained to recognise any potential ‘triggers’ and prevent the need for physical restraint.

Staff should also be trained in understanding how to handle children with difficult issues or conditions that make them less responsive to verbal communications and instructions.

Staff should be instructed in the type of physical intervention or restraint that is appropriate to the age and stature of the children in their care. This training should include ways of avoiding or defusing the situation.

Staff working with SEND pupils may require additional training to take effective control of their pupils.

Staff should be trained in the correct method of recording the incidents with a view to the possible use of such records in any subsequent legal action.

Monitoring:

The Governors have a duty to ensure that all incidents have been dealt with fairly and in line with the guidance issued.

The policy must be reviewed regularly and amendments made in line with any changes to the law.