



St Ralph Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



The Federation of All Saints and St. Margaret's CVA

Policy for De-Escalation and Positive Intervention.

Approved by: Grainne Beaumont

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**Next review due
by:** 22/10/2023

1. Purpose of the Policy

The DFE recognises that as a school we have a duty to care for all children and young people and that staff should take appropriate actions to ensure that the children in our care are protected from harm and do not harm others. This policy deals with all situations where physical intervention or restraint may need to be used. This includes situations where children have risks assessed and protocols in place but also for any child who demonstrates behaviour which is unforeseen and unpredictable. This policy will make staff aware of the type of situations where they may or may not be required to intervene physically, and those situations where it is acceptable or not acceptable to physically restrain a child. We accept that there are situations where as an act of care, physical intervention and physical restraint may be necessary. All staff are expected to adhere to this policy.

Within the Federation, we are committed to a positive behaviour policy which encourages children to make positive behaviour choices. We do however recognise that children sometimes do make the wrong choices. On rare occasions this may result in a situation that requires some form of positive intervention which may need to include reasonable physical contact by staff.

Reasonable is defined in National Guidance as: What a reasonable parent would do.

Our policy for physical intervention is based upon the following principles:-

- Physical intervention should be used only as a last resort when other appropriate strategies have failed.
- Any physical contact should be only the minimum required.
- Physical intervention must be used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.
- Incidents must be recorded and reported to the Head Teacher as soon as possible
- Parents will be informed of each incident.

2. The Legal Framework

Section 93 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 allows 'teachers and other persons who are authorised by the Head Teacher who have control or charge of pupils to use such force as **is reasonable** in all the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:-

- causing injury to his/herself or others
- committing an offence
- damaging property
- prejudicing the maintenance of good order & discipline'

3. Terminology

- **Physical intervention** refers to the actions by one or more people to restrict the actions of a student.
- **Physical restraint** is the positive application of force with the intention of holding a student. Both are acts of care and control aimed at ensuring the safety of the student and others.

4. Rationale

Every child has a right to the best education which can be provided, in partnership with the school, their family, the local authority and the community. Running Deer School aims to provide a safe, caring and friendly environment for all our students to allow them to learn effectively, improve their life chances and help them maximise their potential. Good student behaviour and skilled behaviour management are essential for an effective learning environment. This policy should be read in conjunction with the behaviour and safeguarding policies. We take a holistic approach to the support of children and their provision should be individualised in accordance with the needs of children.

5. Our Approach

Within the Federation we aim to avoid the need for physical intervention and regard this as a last resort in a tiny minority of situations. We always aim to deal with behaviour using a positive approach and therefore this policy should be read in connection with our Behaviour Policy.

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate and staff will have to exercise their own judgement in situations which arise within the above categories.

Staff should always act within the School's policy on behaviour and discipline, particularly in dealing with disruptive behaviour.

Staff should be aware that when they are in charge of children during the school day, or during other supervised activities, they are acting in loco parentis and have a 'Duty of Care' to all children they are in charge of. They must, therefore, take reasonable action to ensure all pupils' safety and well being.

Staff are not expected to place themselves in situations where they are likely to suffer injury as a result of their intervention.

Staff, however need to also be aware that physical contact with students becomes increasingly open to question, and staff should always bear in mind that even innocent and well-intentioned physical contact can sometimes be misconstrued.

6. Use of Physical Restraint

Physical restraint should be applied as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allowing the pupil to regain self-control. It should never take a form which could be seen as punishment.

Staff are only authorised to use reasonable force in applying physical restraint, although there is no absolute definition of this. What constitutes reasonable force depends upon the particular situation and the pupil to whom it is being applied. However, as a general rule, only the force necessary to stop or prevent danger or harm should be used, in accordance with the guidelines below.

In all circumstances, alternative methods should be used as appropriate with physical intervention or restraint **as a last resort**.

When physical restraint becomes necessary:

DO

- Tell the pupil what you are doing and why
- Use the minimum force necessary
- Involve another member of staff if possible
- Tell the pupil what s/he must do for you to remove the restraint (this may need frequent repetition)
- Use simple and clear language
- Hold limbs above a major joint if possible e.g. above the elbow
- Relax your restraint in response to the pupil's compliance
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DON'T

- Act in temper (involve another staff member if you fear loss of control)
- Involve yourself in a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil
- Involve other pupils in the restraint
- Touch or hold the pupil in a way that could be viewed as sexually inappropriate conduct
- Twist or force limbs back against a joint
- Bend fingers or pull hair
- Hold the pupil in a way which will restrict blood flow or breathing e.g. around the neck or chest, leaning forward at the waist, or face down on the floor
- Slap, punch, kick or trip up the pupil
- Use physical restraint or intervention as a punishment

7. Actions after an incident

Physical restraint often occurs in response to highly charged emotional situations and there is a clear need for debriefing after the incident, both for the staff involved and the pupil.

The head teacher should be informed of any incident as soon as possible and will take responsibility for making arrangements for debriefing once the situation has stabilised. An appropriate member of the teaching staff should always be involved in debriefing the pupil involved and any victims of the incident should be offered support, and their parents informed.

If the behaviour is part of an ongoing pattern it may be necessary to address the situation through the development of a behavioural action plan, which may include an anger management programme, or other strategies agreed by the SENCO.

It is also helpful to consider the circumstances precipitating the incident to explore ways in which future incidents can be avoided.

All incidents should be recorded immediately on the 'Pupil Restraint Report Form' (attached). All sections of this report should be completed so that any patterns of behaviour can be identified and addressed.

In the event of any future complaint or allegation this record will provide essential and accurate information.

A copy should be filed in the child's appropriate file and in a central school file in order to inform individual and school risk assessments.

The Head Teacher, or in their absence a senior member of staff, will contact parents as soon as possible after an incident, normally on the same day, to inform them of the actions that were taken and why, and to provide them with an opportunity to discuss it.

8. Risk Assessments

If we become aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a disruptive way that may require the use of reasonable force, we will plan how to respond if the situation arises. Such planning will address:

- Strategies to be used prior to intervention
- Ways of avoiding 'triggers' if these are known
- Involvement of parents to ensure that they are clear about the specific action the school might need to take
- Briefing of staff to ensure they know exactly what action they should be taking (this may identify a need for training or guidance)
- Identification of additional support that can be summoned if appropriate

- The school's duty of care to all pupils and staff.