

Friar's Grove Primary School



Physical Intervention Policy

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Next Review November 2026

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INTRODUCTION

At Friar's Grove Primary School we believe that pupils need to be safe, to know how to behave, and to know that the adults around them are able to manage them safely and confidently. Physical intervention will be necessary for only a small minority of children and only as a last resort. On such occasions, acceptable forms of intervention are used.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Friar's Grove Touch statement, the Behaviour Policy and the Child Protection Policy.

DEFINITION OF "RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTION"

"Restrictive Physical Intervention" is the term used to describe interventions where bodily contact using force is used to control or manage a child's behaviour. It refers to any instance in which there is a need for a teacher or other adult authorised by the Headteacher to use "reasonable force" to control or restrain pupils in circumstances that meet the following legally defined criteria:

- To prevent a child from committing a criminal offence (this applies even if the child is below the age of criminal responsibility)
- To prevent a child from injuring self or others
- To prevent or stop a child from causing serious damage to property (including the child's own property)
- To stop the child from engaging in any behaviour which is prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school.

There is no legal definition of "reasonable force". However, there are two relevant considerations:

- the use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of an incident warrant it
- the degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent.

The definition of physical force also includes the use of mechanical devices (e.g. splints on the pupil prescribed by medical professionals to prevent self-injury), forcible seclusion or use of locked doors. Although no physical contact may be made in the latter situations, this is still regarded as a Restrictive Physical Intervention.

Seclusion is an approach to restrictive physical intervention which may only be deemed acceptable in emergency situations, for example, a student wielding a knife, and cannot be part of a planned approach to dealing with challenging behaviour.

WHEN THE USE OF RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTIONS MAY BE APPROPRIATE

The school's behaviour policy expects that positive relationships will be formed with all children and that staff will use de-escalation strategies if a child is presenting with challenging behaviour. These strategies will ensure that physical intervention is less likely to be necessary. There may also be occasions when all other

members of the class are removed from the room to ensure their safety, which will again avoid the need for Restrictive Physical Intervention. Restrictive Physical Interventions will be used when all other strategies have been considered, and therefore only as a last resort.

PLANNING FOR THE USE OF RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTIONS

Staff will use the minimum force needed to restore safety and appropriate behaviour. The principles relating to the intervention are as follows:-

- Staff will take steps in advance to avoid the need for Restrictive Physical Intervention through dialogue, de-escalation and diversion. The pupil will be warned, at their level of understanding, that Restrictive Physical Intervention will be used unless they cease the unacceptable behaviour.
- Restrictive Physical Intervention will only be used in circumstances when one or more of the legal criteria for its use are met. Staff will only use it when there are good grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary and that it is in the pupil's and/or other pupil's best interests for staff to intervene physically.
- Restrictive Physical Intervention is an act of care and control, not punishment. It is never used to force compliance with staff instructions.
- The age, understanding, and competence of the individual pupil will always be taken into account.
- Only the minimum force necessary will be used for the minimum amount of time. Staff will use open hands and, if necessary, arms around the body. They will not hold or grab arms or legs or any part of the body with closed hands.
- Staff will be able to show that the planned intervention will be a reasonable response to an incident.
- Every effort will be made to secure the presence of other staff, and these staff may act as assistants and/or witnesses.
- As soon as it is safe, the Restrictive Physical Intervention will be relaxed to allow the pupil to regain self-control.
- Escalation will be avoided at all costs, as it may make the overall situation more destructive and unmanageable.
- A distinction will be maintained between the use of a one-off intervention which is appropriate to a particular circumstance, and the using of it repeatedly as a regular planned intervention with a specific pupil.
- In developing Regulation Plans, consideration will be given to approaches appropriate to each pupil's circumstance.

- Procedures are in place, through the pastoral approaches of the school, for supporting and debriefing pupils and staff after every incident of Restrictive Physical Intervention, as it is essential to safeguard the emotional well-being of all involved at these times.
- Following any incident of physical intervention, a form will be filled in, shared with SLT & parents will be informed.

Physical contact is never used as a punishment, or to inflict pain. All forms of corporal punishment are prohibited.

DEVELOPING AN INDIVIDUAL REGULATION PLAN

If a pupil is identified for whom it is felt that Restrictive Physical Intervention is likely, then a Regulation Plan and/or a Risk Assessment will be completed. This Plan will help the pupil and staff to avoid difficult situations through understanding the factors that influence the behaviour and identifying the early warning signs that indicate foreseeable behaviours that may be developing.

COMPLAINTS

It is intended that by adopting this policy and keeping parents and governors informed we can avoid the need for complaints. All disputes which arise about the use of force by a member of staff will be dealt with according to our Complaints and Child Protection policies.

USE OF PHYSICAL INTERVENTION ON PUPILS: INCIDENT RECORD

Details of pupil on whom physical intervention was used by a member of staff (name, class)	
Date, time and location of incident	
Names of staff involved (directly or as a witness)	
Details of other pupils involved (directly or as witnesses)	
Description of incident including attempts to de-escalate and warnings given	
Reason for using physical intervention and description of physical intervention used	
Any injury suffered by staff or pupils and any first aid required	
Follow up, including post-incident support and any disciplinary action against pupil	
When and how those with parental responsibility were informed about the incident and any views they have expressed	
Has any complaint been lodged? Yes / No	
Report compiled by:	Role:
Signature:	Date: