

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Love, Grow, Believe, Achieve!

Physical Intervention Policy

FOREWORD

This policy has been written in accordance with the Welsh Government framework for Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy 2005, The Use of Force to control or Restrain Pupils, the powers of which are contained in Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and Safe and effective intervention – use of reasonable force and searching for weapons 2010 (amended 2013). It should be read in conjunction with school policies on Behaviour, Child Protection and Health & Safety.

Both children and staff have rights. This document attempts to ensure that staff have a safe, supportive, carefully managed and monitored environment, and that children's needs, safety and rights are respected and nurtured.

Policy Statement

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School we work to ensure each individual pupil is able to reach his or her potential. Every child is entitled to learn and every teacher to teach in an environment that is safe, secure and free from distraction. The School recognises the importance of ensuring good order to provide a safe environment for staff and pupils. The guiding principles to achieve this are set out in the school policy on positive behaviour management.

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to providing the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young people entrusted to its care. We recognise there is a need, reflected in common law, to intervene when there is an obvious risk of safety to pupils, staff and property. For the most part this is achieved through the fostering of good relationships, and the normal application of positive behaviour management to support and intervene.

However, it is recognised that, in extreme circumstances, it may be necessary for school staff to intervene physically to manage certain harmful behaviours by pupils. This may involve the use of reasonable force through restrictive physical intervention

Objectives of Policy

- To provide all staff, governors, parents and pupils with an understanding of care and control and the use of force.
- To emphasise that the use of positive handling is:
 - Part of a positive care and control approach to discipline and welfare
 - As a last resort, or a necessary expedient option to be used in extreme circumstances.
- To ensure that all members of staff or authorised persons who may have to positively handle pupils, clearly understand the options, strategies and training opportunities open to them.

Restrictive Physical Intervention is defined as; direct physical contact between persons where reasonable force is positively applied against resistance, either to restrict movement or mobility or to disengage from harmful behaviour displayed by an individual.

It should be emphasised that if used at all **restrictive physical handling, which is the Welsh Assembly Government's preferred term**, should be seen in the context of a further positive action of care and concern. In line with Welsh Office and LEA advice, it is used as a 'last resort' option. In the most extreme cases, other strategies will always have been attempted first.

This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body and all parties will be informed by the Head teacher if there are changes that affect them

The school will work to create an environment that minimises the risk of incidents that might require restrictive physical intervention.

This will include :-

- the implementation of whole-school behaviour management strategies;
- training staff to de-escalate and defuse potentially disruptive situations;
- working with individual pupils and their parents to identify trigger behaviours and to develop preventative strategies that avoid the need for physical intervention.

Strategies other than force will be considered e.g.

- providing pupil with a choice of locations to exit to, giving clear directions and allowing 'take-up' time thus allowing a 'face-saving' opportunity;
- removing the audience, i.e. other pupils leave the room ;
- letting another member of staff take responsibility for managing the incident.

Wherever possible early support from colleagues will be sought and restrictive physical intervention will only be used when the risk of not intervening outweighs the risk of doing so.

Teachers and other persons authorised by the Head teacher to have charge of pupils may use restrictive physical intervention to prevent pupils:

- causing injury to themselves or others;
- committing a crime;
- causing serious damage to property;
- causing disruption by engaging in behaviour which is seriously prejudicial to good order and discipline.

We recognise that most of the time positive handling will be used infrequently, that is, as a last resort to maintaining a safe environment. All staff may intervene physically in an emergency, and all teachers are legally enabled to use reasonable force under section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, only those staff who have been specifically authorised by the Head Teacher will normally take part in restrictive physical interventions that have been included in Positive Handling Plans. Appropriate training will be given.

Actions in a Physical Intervention will be:

- Reasonable;
- Proportionate;
- Necessary;
- In the best interest of the child.

Reasonable force has no legal definition but:

- *must take into account the circumstances of the incident, age, gender and development of pupil;*
- *the degree of force must be proportional to the seriousness of the situation, behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent, and always be the minimum needed;*
- *cannot be justified for a trivial misdemeanour or a situation that could be resolved without it;*
- *everyone has the right to self-defence provided they do not use a disproportionate degree of force;*
- *Corporal punishment is illegal.*

Training will be provided. Staff will not use any technique that restricts a child's breathing or which requires a child to be held face down.

Following Serious Incidents

1. All staff involved in a restrictive physical intervention will be allowed time to seek medical attention if necessary, to recover and to be debriefed by colleagues nominated by the Head Teacher. Written records will be completed within 24 hours, if practical.

2. Pupils will be given medical attention if necessary, and will be given time to become calm before discussing an incident. The pupil will be given the opportunity to explain things from his/her point of view and steps will be taken to re-establish the relationship between the pupil and the staff involved in the incident. In cases where it is not possible to speak to the pupil on the same day the debrief will occur as soon as possible after the pupil returns to school.
3. Staff who act in accordance with this policy will be positively supported by the School, but staff will be expected to use their professional judgement when handling children, and everyone involved must be aware that their actions may be subject to scrutiny and possible legal action.
4. While staff will use the minimum force for the shortest time during a restrictive physical intervention, it is recognised that minor injuries, such as bruises and scratches, may occur. Such minor injuries will not, by themselves, be regarded as evidence of misconduct.

Reporting and Recording Incidents

1. All Incidents involving restrictive physical intervention will be recorded on the school agreed form.
2. Parents will be informed as soon as practical about all serious incidents by phone call or letter if staff are unable to make contact by phone.
3. A complete Violence at Work form will be sent to the LA if a member of staff is injured during an incident.
4. The Restrictive Physical Intervention reporting form is attached as Appendix 1.

Role of Headteacher

Ensure the situation is under control and that all participants are safe from further injury as soon as possible. Ensure that anyone who has been injured seeks medical attention as soon as possible.

Clarify the incident. All incidents must be clarified to establish the cause, although Heads should use their discretion when clarifying the events of the incident.

Ensure witnesses complete statements and where necessary, staff directly involved in the incident complete an entry on the school form within 24 hours.

Inform the pupil's parents. Parents should be contacted as soon as possible after the incident.

Initiate remedial action and monitor effectiveness. If further incidents are to be prevented, it is essential that appropriate remedial action is taken as soon as possible and that its effectiveness is monitored. If a Positive Handling Plan is in place, it should be reviewed and if it is a first incident involving a child a Positive Handling Plan should be considered to be put in place for the pupil. This acts as a risk assessment to reduce the risk of further incidents.

Report incidents to the governing body regularly.

Planning for incidents and meeting training needs

Parents will be informed of the school's policy on Restrictive Physical Intervention and available on the school website.

If it appears likely that a pupil will require positive handling, the school will plan how to respond. This will include involving the parents to ensure they are clear about what specific action the school might need to take and obtaining medical advice if the child has any specific health needs. A positive handling agreement

will be drawn up, in consultation with all concerned and included as part of the pupil's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Pastoral Support Plan (PSP). It will be regularly reviewed.

The Head Teacher will determine the training needs of school staff after assessing the likely need and scope of physical intervention that might be required. Advice and support on assessing training needs will be available from the LA.

Complaints

All complaints relating to restrictive physical intervention will be recorded by the school and details will be shared with relevant LA staff and other agencies. The Head Teacher will clarify the details of all complaints in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy, and will ensure they are dealt with appropriately.

This policy is in accordance with the LA policy in respect of the use of restrictive physical interventions in schools. As such, those acting in accordance with it, providing they act in good faith, working within the authority guidelines, will be positively supported in their actions by the school and the LA.

Involving parents when an incident occurs, and having a clear policy about physical contact with pupils to which staff adhere, will help avoid complaints from parents. Providing staff with approved training will also help.

A complaint or dispute about the use of force by a member of staff might lead to an investigation under disciplinary procedures or by the Police and Social Services under Child Protection procedures.

Appendix 1

Physical intervention - Incident record form

SECTION A – Basic Data

Name of Pupil:		DoB/ Age:
Staff involved:		Date of incident:
Location of incident:	Duration of incident:	

SECTION B - Reason for Intervention

(Please tick appropriate)

1. Risk of personal injury to pupil
2. Risk of injury to another person
3. Risk of significant damage to property
4. Compromising good order and discipline
5. At risk of committing criminal offence

SECTION C - Details of Incident

- **Antecedents:** (Where did incident start, what was happening at the time?)

De-escalation: Please tick all used

Humour Verbal advice and support Firm clear directions Negotiation Limited choices
 Distraction Diversion Reassurance Planned ignoring Contingent touch Calm talking
Patience Withdrawal offered Withdrawal directed Swap adult Reminders about consequences Success reminders

- **Description of Incident**

SECTION D: Method of Physical Intervention

- How was the pupil held?
- How long did the pupil need to be held?
- Has the pupil been physically restrained before? Yes / No
- How effective was the intervention?
- How was the intervention in the best interest of the young person?

SECTION E: Outcome of incident

1. Was anybody injured? Yes / No
(Please give details (nature of injuries, treatment required))
2. Response and view of pupil Yes / No
3. Does pupil have a behaviour programme? Yes / No
Do any changes need to be made? Yes / No
If yes, please specify
4. How was the incident resolved and what were the consequences?

SECTION F: - Follow up action

1. Do other agencies need to be contacted? Yes / No
If yes, please specify who and with what aim.
2. Parent/carer informed by Direct Contact Letter Telephone
3. Follow up support/interview for Pupil Staff

SECTION G: Additional comments

Form completed by: (Print) (Signed) Date:

Designation:

Head Teacher/ ALNCo signature:

