



Physical Intervention Policy

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HIGHFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Philosophy

Highfields Primary School is committed to ensuring that pupils and staff are able to work in a safe, supportive and caring environment, free from violence and disruption, where every pupil has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Highfields recognises that on rare occasions, a physical intervention may be necessary to ensure that pupils and/or staff are kept safe. When restrictive physical intervention is used it will be:

- When the pupil poses a risk to themselves or others
- As an act of care and not punishment
- As a last resort when all other reasonable strategies have proved ineffective or impracticable
- With the minimum force necessary and for the least amount of time.
- Conducted in a manner that maintains the safety and dignity of all concerned.

Compliance

Section 550A Education Act 1997 and the Education and Inspection Act 2006 allows teachers and other persons authorized by the head teacher to use such force as is reasonable to prevent a child from:

- Committing a criminal offence (or for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil)
- Causing personal injury to, or damaging the property of, any person (including the pupil himself)
- Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during the teaching session or otherwise.

Physical intervention may take several forms

- Physically interposing between pupils
- Blocking a pupils' path
- Leading a pupil by the hand/arm
- Holding a pupil

The use of physical intervention

By following the Behaviour Policy, the use of physical intervention should be minimised and is very rare at Highfields. However, schools do not require parental consent to use reasonable force.

Highfields has several members trained in the use of holding and physical intervention techniques, including members of SLT, teaching staff and support staff. This training is known as CPI-SI (Crisis Prevention Institute Safety Intervention).

The training is renewed at 12 monthly intervals and if a pupil required a 'holding' physical intervention then staff would always call for assistance from a member of staff trained in CPI-SI.

If a pupil has a Special Educational Need or Disability then one of the members of staff using a physical intervention must always be CPSI-SI trained.

All incidents involving use of a holding physical intervention will be recorded in a book used for this purpose and reported to a member of the Senior Leadership Team, during the school day in which the incident took place.

We recognise that the use of a physical intervention can be upsetting for a child and their parents. A member of the Senior Leadership team will always inform parents if a physical intervention has been used. In these instances, parents will be offered the opportunity to discuss this.

Monitoring Incidents Where Physical Restraint Is Used

The SENDCo will monitor records of any incidents in order to:

- Identify any patterns of behaviour resulting in the use of physical intervention and referring to SAT-SEMH (Specialist Advisory Teacher for Social, Emotional and Mental Health) at inclusion support.
- Review the levels of staff awareness of and compliance with the school policy.
- Inform staff training needs.
- Explore the relationship between the use of physical intervention and behaviour in school.
- Report to Governors about these incidents on a termly basis.

Risk Assessments

If we become aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a way that may require the use of a physical intervention on more than one occasion, we will plan how to respond if the situation arises. We will write an individual risk assessment for the child. This risk assessment will

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attempt to identify and avoid potential triggers if these are known and if it is reasonable to do so. The risk assessment will also identify additional support that could be available and strategies to improve positive behaviour. These risk assessments will be shared with parents.

Complaints Procedure

Complaints relating to the use of physical intervention will be dealt with following the school's complaints procedure.

- If a parent feels that the use of a physical intervention has been inappropriate they should firstly lodge a complaint with the Headteacher.
- If parents feel that the Headteacher has been unable to resolve the issue, they are encouraged to lodge a complaint with the governing body through the chairperson of the governing body, Mrs Joanne Turner