



Signed:

Date: September 2023

Review: September 2025

Woodford Valley C.E Primary Academy Physical Interventions Procedures Policy

This Academy is committed to creating the ethos in which children can grow towards Christian life, learning and love.

*“And now I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.”
John 13 34-35*

This policy needs to be read in conjunction with all our other relevant academy policies; in particular, our SEN policy, Child Protection policy, Behaviour and Discipline policy, Anti Bullying policy and Single Equality policy.

Introduction

This policy provides a guide for adults working in schools (including staff, governors, volunteers and visitors) about acceptable and desirable conduct when using positive physical interventions with children to protect both adults and pupils. It refers to and complements other policies and guidance in our school.

Underpinning Principles

‘We care enough about you for you not to be out of control’

- We promote the use of the least intrusive de-escalation strategies possible in any situation, using verbal and non-verbal strategies before positive handling interventions are employed.
- The use of force should, wherever possible, be avoided;
- There are occasions when the use of force is appropriate;
- When force is necessary, it must be used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.
- All incidents should be recorded in line with policy.
- Provide a process of repair and reflection for both staff and children.

The term ‘reasonable force’ covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.

‘Reasonable in the circumstances’ means using no more force than **is needed**.

Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control.

Staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

All members of school staff have a legal power to use 'reasonable force'. The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

Schools do not require parental consent to use force on a child. The power for school staff to use force comes from Section 93 Education and Inspections Act 2006 and under Common Law, including situations where a child was in danger of hurting someone else or themselves or from damaging property. See <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/section/93> for further information.

All staff, volunteers and visitors to the school should provide a good example and a positive role model to pupils. They should behave in a mature, respectful, safe, fair and considered manner. For example, you must ensure that you are not sarcastic; that you do not make remarks or 'jokes' to pupils of a personal, sexual, racist, discriminatory, intimidating or otherwise offensive nature; and that you do not embarrass or humiliate children

Planned Intervention: This is undertaken by trained named staff only.

Planned interventions are:

- Agreed in advance through consultation with all stakeholders
- Implemented under the supervision of a trained member of staff
- Recorded using the behaviour management/physical intervention book
- Included as part of the child's individual care plan and recorded on individual de-escalation plans
- Routinely reviewed

1. **Unplanned/Emergency intervention** – undertaken by all staff.

Unplanned intervention should use 'reasonable' force commensurate with the risk **to prevent serious injury only**. Intervention should only take place when the adverse outcomes that may be associated with intervention (e.g. potential injury, distress etc.) are less severe than the adverse consequences of the action or behaviour.

Staff should:

- Maintain a calm and measured approach to the situation
- Remove other children or young people who may be at risk
- Summon assistance and inform the child that you have sent for help
- Attempt to diffuse the situation orally and try to prevent escalation of the situation – sometimes this will mean that you stop talking to the child
- If necessary, remove yourself to a safe distance, but continue to keep the child under strict supervision throughout.

Prior to any physical intervention, staff should:

- Give a verbal instruction to stop and, where possible, detail the physical intervention that will take place

- Communicate with the child throughout the incident
- Make it clear that physical contact will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary

2. Recording and reporting

Every unplanned/emergency use of physical intervention must be reported to the Head Teacher or her representative immediately; the Head Teacher will ensure that the child's parent is notified the same day. Details of the incident must be recorded in the red **Behaviour Management / Physical Intervention School Report and Investigation Book** which is kept in the office.

A **Behaviour Management / Physical Intervention School Report and Investigation Form** should also be used to record details of any incidents in which physical or psychological harm occurs as a result of an incident or intervention. These incidents will also be recorded on-line using Right Choice system.

3. Complaints

Unfortunately, adherence to these procedures will not prevent complaint or investigation, and if the degree of force used is deemed unreasonable, criminal prosecution or civil action may result. Any complaint regarding the use of 'unreasonable force' will be investigated following Child Protection Procedures.

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by Governors and SLT.