



Signed: *Vera Stevey*

Date: October 2021

Review: October 2023

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 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.

Physical Interventions Procedures

Written in accordance with the DCE Policy Statement and Guidance with regard to the Ofsted document 'Positive environments where children can flourish (March 2018 No. 180006)

1. Physical intervention may only be used to prevent injury to oneself or to others, or to prevent serious damage to property. In these cases a reasonable amount of force may be used. Physical intervention solely to enforce compliance with staff instructions in situations which present no risk is unacceptable.
2. **The Law: *The Education and Inspections Act 2006*** introduced a statutory right for school staff to use such force as is reasonable when required to prevent a pupil from:
 - committing an offence or engaging in conduct that could be an offence
 - causing injury to themselves or others
 - damaging property
 - prejudicing good order and discipline at the school

3. **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

4. **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

5. **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.

6. 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.

