

WEST ROW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION AND RESTRAINT POLICY

At West Row Community Primary School, we are committed to a positive behaviour policy which encouraged children to make positive behaviour choices and be rewarded for doing so. On rare occasions circumstances may result in a situation that requires some form of physical intervention by staff. Our policy for physical intervention is based on the following principles:

- Physical intervention should only be used as a last resort when other appropriate strategies have failed and/or a child or children are at risk of harm or injury.
- Any physical contact should only be the minimum required.
- Physical intervention must be used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.
- Incidents must be recorded and reported to the Head-Teacher as soon as possible.
- Parents will be informed of the incident.
- Only staff who have completed the SCHOOL-SAFE training will be permitted to intervene physically.

The Legal Framework

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 allows teachers and other persons who are authorised by the Head-Teacher who have control or charge of pupils to use such force as is reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do any of the following:

- Causing injury to his/herself or others
- Committing an offence
- Damaging property
- Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline.
- At risk of serious harm or injury.

Our Approach

At West Row Community Primary School we aim to avoid the need for physical intervention and regard this as a last resort in a minority of situations. We always aim to deal with behaviour using a positive approach and therefore this policy should be read in connection with our Behaviour Policy.

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate and staff will have to exercise their own judgement in situations

which arise within the above categories. Staff should always act within the School's policy on behaviour and discipline, particularly in dealing with disruptive behaviour.

Staff should be aware that when they are in charge of children during the school day, or during other supervised activities, they are acting in loco parentis and have a 'duty of care' to all children they are in charge of. They must, therefore, take reasonable action to ensure all pupils' safety and wellbeing. Staff are not expected to place themselves in situations where they are likely to suffer injury as a result of their intervention.

Use of Physical Restraint

Physical restraint should be applied as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allows the pupil to regain self-control. It should never take a form which could be seen as punishment. It should never be used to gain compliance.

Staff are only authorised to use reasonable force in applying physical restraint, although there is no absolute definition of this. What constitutes reasonable force depends upon the particular situation and the pupil to whom it is being applied. Teachers should apply the training they received from SCHOOL-SAFE to de-escalate where possible then use the appropriate holds and moves intended to redirect practiced in the training. However, as a general rule, only the force necessary to stop or prevent danger should be used, in accordance with the guidelines below.

In all circumstances, alternative methods should be used as appropriate with physical intervention or restraint, a last resort.

When physical restraint becomes necessary:

DO

- Tell the pupil what you are doing and why
- Use the minimum force necessary
- Involve another member of staff if possible
- Tell the pupil what s/he must do for you to remove the restraint (this may need frequent repetition).
- Use simple and clear language
- Hold limbs above a major joint if possible (e.g above the elbow)
- Relax your restraint in response to positive behaviour from the child.

DON'T

- Act in temper (involve another staff member if you fear loss of control)
- Involve yourself in a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil
- Involve other pupils in the restraint

- Touch or hold the pupil in a way that could be viewed as sexually inappropriate conduct
- Twist or force limbs back against a joint
- Bend fingers or pull hair
- Hold the pupil in a way which will restrict blood flow or breathing (e.g around the neck)
- Slap, punch, kick or trip the pupil
- Use physical restraint or intervention as a punishment or simply to gain compliance

Actions after an incident:

Physical restraint often occurs in response to highly charged emotional situations and there is a clear need for debriefing after the incident, both for the staff involved and the pupil. The Head-Teacher should be informed of any incident as soon as possible and will take responsibility for making arrangements for debriefing once the situation has stabilised. An appropriate member of teaching staff should always be involved in debriefing the pupil involved and any victims of the incident should be offered support, and their parents informed.

If the behaviour is part of an ongoing pattern, it may be necessary to address the situation through the development of a behavioural IEP which may include an anger management programme, counselling or other strategies agreed by the SENCo. This may require additional support other services, for example the Behaviour Support Services or the IYFAP (In Year Fair Access Panel).

In some circumstances a CAF (Common Assessment Framework) may be appropriate to help identify an additional need for a particular child.

It is also helpful to consider the circumstances precipitating the incident to explore ways in which future incidents can be avoided.

All incidents should be recorded immediately in the Pupil Restraint Report Log (exemplar form attached). All sections of this report should be completed so that any patterns of behaviour can be identified and addressed. In the event of any future complaint or allegation this record will provide essential and accurate information.

A copy should be filed in the child's appropriate file and in a central school file in order to inform individual and school risk assessments.

A member of the leadership team will contact parents as soon as possible after an incident, normally on the same day, to inform them of the actions that were taken and why, and to provide them with an opportunity to discuss it.

Risk Assessments:

If we become aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a disruptive way that may require the use of reasonable force, we will plan how to respond with the situation arises. Such planning will address:

- Strategies to be use prior to intervention
- Ways of avoiding 'triggers' if these are known
- Involvement of parents to ensure that they are clear about the specific action the school might need to take
- Briefing of staff to ensure they know exactly what action they should be taking (this may identify a need for training or guidance)
- Identification of additional support that can be summoned if appropriate
- The school's duty of care to all pupil and staff

Complaints and Allegations:

A clear restraint policy, adhered to by all staff and shared with parents, should help to avoid complaints from parents. It is unlikely to prevent all complaints, however, and a dispute about the use of force by a member of staff might lead to an investigation, either under the complaints disciplinary or allegation management procedures.

It is our intention to inform all staff, pupils, parents and governors about these procedures and the context in which they apply.

We will review this policy in a yearly basis and/or following changes in legislation or updated training.

RECORD OF PHYSICAL INTERVENTION OR RESTRAINT

Date of incident:

Time of incident:

Pupil Name:

Date of birth:

Members of staff involved:

Adult witnessed to restraint:

Pupil witnesses to restraint:

Outline of event leading to restraint:

Outline of incident of restraint (including restraint method used):

Outcome of restraint:

Description of any injury(ies) sustained by pupil and any subsequent treatment:

Date parent/carer informed of incident:

Time:

By whom informed:

Outline of parent/carer response:

Signature of staff completing report:

Date:

Signature of teacher in charge:

Date:

Signature of Head-Teacher

Date:

Brief description of any subsequent inquiry/complaint or action: