



SHEERHATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY

Schools have a 'duty of care' to their pupils. This may involve all staff having to handle pupils to prevent them harming themselves, others, or damaging property.

Introduction

This Policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils and for volunteers working within the school. The Policy explains the school's arrangements for physical intervention.

The Policy has been developed in line with the recommendations and guidance from Circular 99/9 "Pastoral Care: Guidance on the Use of Reasonable Force to Restrain or Contain Pupils."

The Policy should be read in conjunction with other school Policies relating to interaction between adults and pupils and in particular the Behaviour Policy.

Aim

The school believes that good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure learning and safety in school. It is recognised that the majority of pupils in our school respond positively to the Behaviour Policy. This ensures the well-being of all pupils and staff in school. It is also acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, staff may need to take action in situations where the use of reasonable force may be required.

Every effort will be made to ensure that all staff in this school:

- Clearly understand this Policy and their responsibilities in the context of their duty of care in taking appropriate measures where reasonable force is necessary.
- Are provided with appropriate advice to deal with these difficult situations.

Any intervention must be in the paramount interests of the child and or used to prevent behaviour that is prejudicial to maintaining good order and safety in the school.

Staff have a responsibility to follow the Policy and to seek alternative strategies wherever possible in order to prevent the need for physical intervention.

Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort when all other behaviour management strategies have failed or when pupils, staff, or property are at risk, but should be reasonable and proportionate.

Types of contact:

Physical Contact

Situations in which proper physical contact occurs between staff and pupils, e.g. in games or P.E. or in the supervision of children. It may be appropriate to use physical contact with a child who is injured, unwell or distressed as we are 'in loco parentis'.

Physical Intervention

This is when contact is used to divert a pupil from a destructive or disruptive action, for example guiding or leading a pupil by hand, arm or shoulder with little or no force, if the child has not responded to a verbal instruction.

Restrictive Physical Intervention

This will involve the use of physical intervention/reasonable force when there is an immediate risk to pupils, staff or risk of significant damage to property.

Principles behind this Policy:

Everyone attending or working in this school has a right to:

- Recognition of their unique identity.
- Be treated with respect and dignity.
- Learn and work in a safe environment.
- Be protected from harm, violence, assault and acts of verbal abuse.

Pupils attending this school and their parents/carers have a right to:

- Individual consideration of pupil needs by staff who have a responsibility for their care and protection.
- Expect staff to undertake their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the school's policies.
- Be informed about school rules, relevant policies and the expected conduct of all pupils and staff working in school.
- Be informed about the school's complaints procedure.

Roles and Responsibilities

The **school** will do all they can to ensure that pupils understand the need for and respond to clearly defined limits which govern behaviour in the school.

We rely on the support of **parents/carers** to ensure the good behaviour of their child and that he/she understands and follows the school's Behaviour Policy.

By reason of their conditions of service, the **Head teacher** can authorise **all teachers and Teaching Assistants** to use restrictive physical intervention. Authorisation is not given to volunteers or parents/carers. Every member of staff has the right to decide whether to take action or not depending on the circumstances.

Staff working as a team will create a calm, secure atmosphere throughout school and apply the Behaviour Policy consistently.

Types of Incidents Where Physical Intervention May Be Required:

- (a) Imminent risk of injury.
- (b) Developing risk of injury or significant damage to property.
- (c) Behaviour that is compromising good order.

Examples of situations which fall into one of the first two categories are:

- A pupil attacks a member of staff or another pupil.
- Pupils are fighting.
- A pupil is engaged in, or is on the verge of committing, deliberate damage or

vandalism to property.

- A pupil is causing, or is at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects.
- A pupil is moving around the school in a way which he or she might cause an accident or injury to himself, herself or to others.
- A pupil tries to leave school.

Examples of situations which fall into the third category are:

- A pupil is behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting others.

Physical intervention should always be a last resort

Wherever possible assistance will be sought from another member of staff before intervening.

Physical intervention uses the minimum degree of force necessary for the shortest period of time to prevent a pupil harming himself, herself, others or property.

It should be explained to the child what is happening and why e.g. *'I am holding on to you to stop you hurting anyone'*.

All such incidents will be recorded. A copy of this is to be placed in the pupils' file.

Parents/carers should be informed of the incident as soon as is reasonable.

Children who have been subject to physical intervention should be given the opportunity to discuss the incident with a member of staff at the first reasonable opportunity following the incident.

This Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. The Policy was approved by the Governing Body at its meeting on:

Signed by Head Teacher

Signed by Chair of Governors