

Itchen Abbas Primary School Physical Intervention Policy



At Itchen Abbas Primary School we strive to create an environment in which both children and adults feel happy, safe, secure and valued. We aim to ensure a whole school approach to behaviour known and understood by all staff, children, parents and outside agencies. The use of physical intervention upon any pupil by a member of staff is a serious matter, and should only be considered as a last resort. However, the law is clear and the Governing Body has a responsibility to all concerned, to support any member of staff who as a last resort uses physical intervention in accordance with the law, and with this policy.

AIMS OF THE POLICY

The aims of this Physical Intervention Policy are to:

- Provide clarification on the use of physical intervention in school;
- To enable staff to feel more informed and confident about the use of physical intervention when they believe it to be necessary;
- To make clear the responsibilities of Head teachers, senior staff and governing bodies in respect of this power;
- This policy is drawn from advice contained in the document 'Use of Reasonable Force – Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies' by the Department for Education (DFE);
- This policy is drawn from the DFE Keeping Children Safe in Education.

KEY POINTS

- School staff have a legal power to use force and lawful use of this power will provide a defence to any related criminal prosecution or other legal action;
- Suspension should not be an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force;
- Senior school leaders should support their staff when they use this power.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following:

- Committing a criminal offence;
- Causing personal injury to themselves or another;
- Causing damage to property belonging to them or another, including the school;
- Any behaviour prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline in the school.

WHO MAY USE PHYSICAL INTERVENTION?

The staff to which this lawful power is granted are defined in the Act. Through this policy, the head teacher expressly gives authority to:

a) All staff who have control or charge of pupils (including teaching staff, teaching assistants, special needs assistants, midday assistants and supply staff) who work at Itchen Abbas Primary School.

WHAT IS PHYSICAL INTERVENTION?

The term '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. 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. Physical intervention is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.

As mentioned above, schools generally use force to control pupils and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom. Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention. School 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.

SCHOOLS CAN USE PHYSICAL INTERVENTION

- In situations where a pupil (including one from another school) is on school premises or elsewhere in the lawful control or charge of a staff member – for example on a school visit;
- To remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- To prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- Prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- To prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground;
- To restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

Schools cannot use force as a punishment – it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

Deciding whether to use force:

As a general rule staff should only use force when:

- The potential consequences of not intervening are sufficiently serious to justify it;
- The chance of achieving the desired outcome by other nonphysical means are low;
- And the risk associated with not using force outweighs the risk of using it;
- Staff do not require parental consent to apply physical intervention on a pupil.

USING PHYSICAL INTERVENTION

Before using force, staff should - where practicable - tell the pupil to stop the behaviour. Care should be taken to avoid giving the impression that the member of staff is angry or frustrated, or are acting to punish the child. It should be made clear with calm language that as soon as the need for force ceases, it will stop.

Appropriate use of force will range from physical passive presence in between pupils, to block a pupil's path, ushering them by placing a hand in the centre of the back, leading them by the hand or arm, or in more extreme circumstances using appropriate restraining holds. Particular attention will be given to individuals' needs which arise from statements of SEN or disability.

Whilst it is highly desirable that staff should avoid acting in any way which might reasonably be expected to cause an injury, in truly exceptional circumstances it is recognised that it may not always be possible to avoid. Any such injury caused will be properly investigated by the school and will require justification.

TRAINING FOR STAFF

Physical restraint is an available option, only to be used when other means of dealing with the situation have failed. Staff are made aware of this policy and have training on child protection and other training that will ensure they are aware of their duties and the law.

RECORDING INCIDENTS

Itchen Abbas will keep a record of each significant incident of the use of physical restraint to control and restrain using the form appended. Whether or not an incident is significant will be a matter for the School to decide on a case by case basis.

Decisions will include the following considerations:

- The pupil's behaviour and the level of risk presented at the time;
- The degree of force used and whether it was proportionate in relation to the behaviour, together with the effect on the pupil or member of staff;
- The effect on the pupil or member of staff;
- The child's age.

The purpose of recording is to ensure that policy guidelines are followed, to inform parents / carers, to inform future planning as part of school improvement processes, to prevent misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the incident and to provide a record for any future enquiry.

Parents / carers will be informed of the incident.

POST-INCIDENT SUPPORT

- If injuries result from the application of physical intervention, medical help should be sought straight away. It is also important to ensure that staff and pupils are given emotional support;
- As soon as possible after the incident parents / carers should be informed and provided with a copy of this policy. If necessary details of the incident will be confirmed in writing;
- When assessing the incident, consideration may be given to involving multi-agency partners to offer support or advice;

- Where a pupil is responsible for injury to another, as well as holding him/her to account and issuing appropriate sanction, the pupil will be given the opportunity to repair the relationships with pupils and staff affected by the incident. The pupil will be offered appropriate support to help develop strategies for avoiding such crisis points in future.

Other physical contact with pupils

It is not illegal to touch a pupil. There are occasions when physical contact, other than physical intervention, with a pupil is proper and necessary.

Examples of where touching a pupil might be proper or necessary:

- Holding the hand of the child at the front/back of the line when
- going to assembly or when walking together around the school;
- When comforting a distressed pupil;
- When a pupil is being congratulated or praised;
- To demonstrate how to use a musical instrument;
- To demonstrate exercises or techniques during PE lessons or sports coaching;
- To give first aid.

COMPLAINTS AND ALLEGATIONS

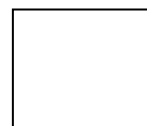
If a complaint is made against a member of staff about the use of force the school will follow the guidance set out in Section Eight of the Use of Physical intervention: Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies DfE Ref: DFE-00341-2014

Date ratified by Governors: October 2025

To be reviewed every 3 years

Date for next review: October 2028

Physical Intervention Record Form



School DCSF No.....Year Group.....

Name of child/young person

Is this young person a looked after child/SEN/vulnerability?

When did the incident occur?

Date	Day of week	Time	Where?
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Staff involved

Name	Designation	Team Teach trained?	Involved: physically? (P) as observer? (O)	Staff signature

Please describe the incident and include:

1. What was happening before? 2. What do you think triggered this behaviour? 3. What de-escalating techniques were used prior to physical intervention? 4. Why was a PI deemed necessary? 5. Any other information relevant to include.

Team Teach technique(s) used (tick as appropriate)

Technique	Standing/escort	Sitting/chairs	Kneeling	Ground
Breakaway/defensive				
One person				
Two people				

Please give details below of hold, e.g. single elbow, double elbow, wrap, etc.

How long was the child/young person held?

If the child/young person was held on the ground: Did they go to ground independently?*

(e.g. did the child lift their weight off the floor, or go
weight)

Were they taken to ground by staff?*

**tick as appropriate*

Good practice dictates that schools should review what happened and consider what lessons can be learned, which may have implications for the future management of the pupil. These need not be added to this form but should be incorporated in the individual plans for the child.

Has the child/young person been held before?	Yes/No
<i>A child/young person should have an individual plan clearly detailing reactive strategies and physical intervention approaches if they have been involved in physical interventions on more than one occasion.</i>	
Does the individual support plan need to be reviewed as a result of this incident?	Yes/No
Does the risk assessment need to be reviewed as a result of this incident?	Yes/No
If yes, who will action and when? (less than four weeks)	

Who was the incident reported to, and when?	
.....	
Was there any medical intervention needed?	Yes/No
Include names of any injured person and brief details of injuries	
.....	
.....	
Please specify any related record forms	
Accident Book <input type="checkbox"/>	Anti Bullying and Racist Incident Record Form <input type="checkbox"/>
Skin Map <input type="checkbox"/>	Violent Incident Record <input type="checkbox"/> Complaints recorded <input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	

Was the pupil debriefed?	Yes/No
Were staff offered a debrief?	Yes/No
Was it taken up?	Yes/No

Parents/carers were informed

Date	Time	By whom?	By direct contact, telephone, letter?

Form completed by:	Name	Designation	Date and time

If further advice is required around any issues related to physical intervention or the completion of this form please contact Helen Carlow on 01962 876217