



St. Mary's CE Infant School Physical Intervention Policy

Aims

- To create a learning environment in which children and adults feel safe
- To protect every person in the school community from harm
- To protect all pupils against any form of physical intervention that is unnecessary, inappropriate, excessive or harmful
- To put in place guidance for staff so that they are clear about the circumstances in which they might use reasonable force to restrain pupils and how such reasonable force might be applied (*reasonable force - the minimum force necessary to prevent a pupil from physically harming him/herself or others or seriously damaging property*).

When intervention and restraint might be used

The school staff have completed Team Teach training. Team Teach is a programme used widely across Oxfordshire which offers a framework for working with challenging behaviour with the aim of reducing "anxiety, risk and restraint". Team Teach focuses on reducing incidents of challenging behaviour using positive behaviour management strategies. The training also covers basic positive handling.

Intervention and restraint should be used in emergency situations and only as a last resort. It should be limited to situations where:

- a pupil attacks a member of staff or another pupil
- pupils are fighting
- a pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury, damage or accident
- a pupil leaves or tries to leave the school building
- a pupil is at risk of harm to themselves or to their health, safety and well-being

Intervention and restraint should never be used as a punishment. Other children should not be used to help restrain others.

Acceptable and appropriate ways of using restraint

Staff will only use restraint if it is:

- necessary
- proportionate
- reasonable

- Responses are made that take into consideration the individual needs and circumstances of that child.

Authorised Actions 'Team Teach'

- Taking the child by the hand or placing palm in the centre of the back to usher away
- 'Use of the Caring C'
- 'Single Elbow Escort Hold'
- Finding of the 'gate' and fix and stabilise
- 'Steering Away'
- 'Escorting to Chair'

Care should be taken with pupils already in an emotional state to avoid escalating a problem. Staff should not attempt to carry a pupil without consulting other members of the team and without clear regard to the physical risks to the child and to themselves.

Who can use restraint and intervention?

DFEE Circular 10/98 states that the Education Act of 1996 'allows all teachers at a school to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils' and 'other people to do so in the same way as teachers provided they have been authorized by the head teacher to have control or charge of pupils' (para 11 & 12, page 4).

Teachers and support staff who have been trained in the use of Team Teach may restrain pupils using 'restrictive holds'.

All staff that have been trained in Team Teach can use physical restraint wherever they are on school premises and in charge of pupils and on other occasions when they have lawful control of pupils on behalf of the school such as on school trips or other out of school activities.

Individual Behaviour Plans (IBP)

Children who have been identified through the use of the OCC SEN Guidance E: Social Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) as having particular behaviour difficulties will be given an IBP. This will be developed in the context of discussions with key staff, the pupil and parents/carers wherever possible and with reference to the guidance within the OCC SEN Guidance. A risk assessment must also be completed alongside the IBP.

Recording after the incident

Following an incident

- Members of staff who have been involved should be given the opportunity to recover from the incident and given team support to discuss the events.

- At the earliest opportunity a record of the incident must be made using the school's procedure and Oxfordshire County Council's on-line reporting system <http://mycases.oxfordshire.gov.uk/hscm/DB7ARWF9.nsf> either by the individual themselves or their line manager.
- The Headteacher will complete a report in a page numbered book which is stored securely.
- The Headteacher will contact the parents to inform them of the incident.