



Berwick  
St Mary's  
CE First School

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Achievement - Creativity - Endeavour

# Physical Intervention Policy

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Berwick St Mary's C of E First School

Adopted: September 2016



## Rationale

St Mary's First School recognises that the occasions when it will become necessary to physically restrain pupils will be very rare and only when there is no alternative in their and other's interests and safety.

St Mary's First School recognises the importance of placing its policy on physical intervention within the context of its whole-school approach to behaviour. This school's behaviour policy sets out the steps taken within school to positively promote and encourage good behaviour amongst pupils; it is specific about what behaviour is expected to pupils and what is unacceptable; and sets out the range of progressive sanctions and steps which staff might feel it becomes necessary to apply.

St Mary's First School also recognises the very real difficulties which staff can sometimes be faced with in their day to day dealings with pupils on matters involving behaviour and discipline. St Mary's First School's approach to the issue of physical intervention is that:

- pupils are entitled to a safe and secure environment in which the highest value is placed on learning how to behave towards others
- staff are also entitled to a safe and secure environment, and have a right to personal support and guidance about what is expected of them in difficult situations

## Policy

1. The School has a duty of care to all its pupils. Staff will therefore be required to act in a manner which safeguards and promotes the welfare of their pupils, and to do everything reasonable that is within their power to protect the child pupils, and to do everything reasonable that is within their power to protect the child from harm, from harming others or from causing serious damage to property. In exceptional circumstances the carrying out of this responsibility may conceivably involve the use of reasonable force in accordance with the school's policy to physically control or restrain a pupil whose behaviour lies well beyond the usual boundaries of self control.
2. Physical intervention should at no time be used as a threat, as punishment to the pupil or to force compliance with staff instructions when there is no risk of injury or of serious harm to property

3. Physical intervention will only be used in the following circumstances:
  - the child is attempting to harm himself/herself, or his/her actions may result in harm;
  - there is a substantial risk of physical injury to a member of staff or a member of the public
  - serious damage to property is being caused
  - it is the judgement of the member of staff that there is a serious risk of any of the above happening unless immediate action is taken
4. Wherever possible, staff should exhaust a range of appropriate behaviour management strategies aimed at preventing the situation from reaching the point at which physical intervention becomes considered - for example, discussion, persuasion, diversion, a brief period of withdrawal from the main group. Physical intervention will therefore only be used as a last resort after all other agreed avenues to defuse and de-escalate the situation have been pursued or where staff feel that immediate action is required.
5. Once a member of staff has decided to intervene physically in order to prevent injury occurring to any person, or serious damage to property, then he/she should:
  - give clear instructions warning the pupil that unless he/she conforms then physical intervention will be applied
  - calmly explain to the pupil that staff are unable to allow him/her to damage or hurt others, and once they have calmed down and is no longer posing a threat then the physical intervention will cease.
  - summon help from another member of staff, if at all possible, to act as witness and ensure the safety of both parties where possible. If no other staff are available then physical intervention should only take place where staff feel sure of success.
  - use only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage and for the minimum amount of time
  - gradually relax the restraint as soon as it is judged safe to do so, to allow the child to regain self control
  - reassure the pupil that no harm will follow
6. Both pupil and the adult should be given time to recover, if possible, acknowledging that emotional distress takes longer to subside than physical symptoms.
7. The school's agreed reporting procedures will be followed.
8. Following an episode of physical intervention, the staff concerned must report the incident (using the form attached to this policy) to the Headteacher or other designated person. It is important that details of the incident are recorded as soon as possible. It is advisable that the recording and reporting takes place before the member of staff leaves the school premises on the day the incident occurs.

9. Following any incidents every effort will be made to allow staff to reflect and discuss what happened and why, and assess future implications for the management of the pupil and their behaviour.
10. If possible discussion should take place between senior management, staff and pupil directly involved to encourage the pupil to face up to the problem and its consequences. If at all possible such a meeting should include parents.
11. It is the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure incident reports are read as soon as possible and his/her own comments will be recorded. It will also be the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure feedback to staff and pupil takes place, and that subsequent meetings or behaviour management plans are arranged.
12. The Headteacher will monitor the use of restraint, including consideration of:
  - The appropriateness of physical intervention
  - The attempts at defusing situations 4
  - Correct post-restraint procedures have been carried out
  - The need for individual behaviour management plans
  - The need for INSET/training for staff
13. The Headteacher will ensure that reports of incidents are correctly filed with copies sent to parents and social services as appropriate. In the case of a looked after child a copy should be forwarded to the key social worker in order to be placed on the child's case file. The Headteacher will also arrange for reports monitoring and evaluating the use

## **Review of Policy**

This policy will be review annually

This policy has been formally adopted by the governing body Sept 2017.

This policy is to be reviewed Sept 2017.