



Beechwood Primary School

Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy

Introduction

This policy is based on DfEE circular 10/98, the DoH/DfES document 'Guidance for Restrictive Physical Intervention'.

Beechwood Primary School recognises that there is a need, reflected in common law, to intervene when there is an obvious risk of safety to its pupils, staff and property.

Beechwood Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff and adults with responsibility for children's safety and welfare will deal professionally with all incidents involving aggressive or reckless behaviour, and use physical intervention only as a last resort in line with DfES advice. If used at all, it will be in the context of a respectful, supportive relationship with the pupil, and be reasonable and proportional to the circumstances of the incident. We will always aim to ensure minimal risk of injury to pupils and staff.

Our approach to best practice

The best practice regarding physical intervention outlined below should be considered alongside other relevant policies in the school, specifically those policies involving behaviour, bullying and health and safety.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 stipulates that reasonable force may be used to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do any of the following:

- Risk to the safety of staff, pupils or visitors or
- where there is a risk of serious damage to property or
- where a pupil's behaviour is seriously prejudicial to good order and discipline or
- where a pupil is committing a criminal offence.

This judgement will take into account the circumstances of the incident. All staff should be aware that the use of physical intervention in response to a clear or developing danger of injury will always be more justifiable than the use of force to prevent damage or misbehaviour.

Staff will view physical intervention or restraint of pupils as a last resort to maintaining a safe environment. If pupils are behaving disruptively or anti-socially, every effort will be made to manage behaviour positively to prevent a deterioration of the situation.

Staff will understand the importance of listening to and respecting children to create an environment that is calm and supportive especially when dealing with pupils who may have emotional and behavioural needs which may increase their aggression. All staff will understand the importance of responding to the feelings of the child which lie beneath the behaviour as well as to the behaviour itself.

Our practice regarding specific incidents

Staff intervening with children will seek assistance from other members of staff as early as possible, since single-handed intervention increases the risks of injury to both parties and does not provide a witness. There must be two members of staff when restraining a child and an extra member as a witness (see Team Teach and Restraint policy below).

Before intervening in a non-emergency, consideration will be given to whether or not other staff are available to assist.

Where possible, staff who have not been involved in the initial confrontation leading up to an incident may be in a better position to intervene or restrain the pupil if this proves necessary.

A pupil's behaviour may be adversely affected by the presence of an audience. Wherever possible, the audience will be removed, or if this is not possible, the pupil will be removed from the audience. The pupil and member(s) of staff will withdraw to a quiet, but not completely private, place (e.g. two members of staff should be present or a door left open so that others are aware of the situation).

Staff will be aware of the need to tell the pupil being restrained, in a calm and gentle manner that the reason for the intervention is to keep the pupil and others safe. Staff will explain that as soon as the pupil calms down, she/he will be released.

All staff are aware that we operate a back-up system to enable staff to call for help in emergencies (e.g. all staff on playground duty have walkie talkies to contact office/BB/GB)

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
- Relax your restraint in response to the pupil's compliance

DON'T

- Act in temper (involve another member of staff if you fear loss of control)
- Involve yourself in a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil
- Attempt to reason with the pupil
- Involve other pupils in the restraint
- Touch or hold the pupil in sexual areas
- 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 up the pupil

Authorisation of staff to use physical intervention

We recognise that most of the time physical intervention will be used infrequently, that is, as a last resort to maintaining a safe environment.

All teaching staff are, by the nature of their roles, authorised to use physical intervention as appropriate.

Support staff will require specific authorisation, either temporarily or permanently. This authorisation can only be given by the Headteacher or someone deputising for him/her when s/he is absent. Authorised staff will be notified formally.

TEAM TEACH AND RESTRAINT POLICY

Physical Intervention

It is recognised that in specific circumstances of serious threat to students, staff or property, it is necessary to use techniques that may involve some physical restraint in order to ensure the health and safety of all.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Staff Training

All classroom based staff are encouraged to take the opportunity of participating in the Team Teach Positive Handling techniques training provided regularly in school. On successful completion of the training, staff are expected to develop their skills by periodically attending updates.

Staff who have been trained to an appropriate level are authorised to use restrictive physical interventions. However, in an emergency the use of physical intervention by other people can be justified if it is the only way to prevent injury or to prevent an offence being committed. The use of physical intervention should be reasonable and proportionate and would be expected to reflect the person's previous training in the appropriate use of Positive Handling Strategies.

A register of Team Teach trained staff and staff authorised to use Team Teach Positive Handling techniques is held in the office of the Head Teacher.

Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention

Staff may use, in relation to any student at the school, such force as is reasonable in the circumstances for the purpose of preventing the student from doing (or continuing to do) any of the following:

- committing a criminal offence (including behaving in a way that would be an offence if the student were not under the age of criminal responsibility)
- causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student him/herself)
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or amongst any of its students, whether that behaviour occurs in a classroom during a teaching session or otherwise.

It applies where a member of staff of the school is:

- On the premises of the school, or
- Elsewhere at the time when, as a member of its staff, they have lawful control or charge of the student concerned (e.g. school trips)

Ref: 1098, Section 550A, 1996 Education Act

Recording

Incidents where physical interventions have been used should be reported to the Head teacher, or in his/her absence the Deputy or Assistant Head teacher. A Serious Incident Record must be completed within 24 hours after the incident. It is recommended that staff seek advice from a senior colleague or a representative of their professional association when completing the report.

Following a physical intervention, a Positive Handling Plan should be completed for the student involved. If the student already has Positive Handling Plan then the plan will be reviewed. If appropriate, a Risk Assessment will be completed.

Post Incident Management

Incidents that require the use of restrictive physical intervention can be upsetting to all concerned. After the incident has subsided the staff and student involved will be given emotional support. They will be provided with an opportunity to talk about their experience in a calm and safe environment.

The pupil and the member of staff will be checked for any sign of injury after an incident. First aid will be administered to anyone who requires it.

The pupil will be given time to become calm while staff continue to supervise him/her.

When the pupil regains complete composure, a senior member of staff (or her/his nominee) will discuss the incident with the pupil and try to ascertain the reason for its occurrence. The pupil will be given an opportunity to explain things from her/his point of view. All necessary steps will be taken to re-establish the relationship between the pupil and the member(s) of staff involved in the incident.

In cases where it is not possible to speak to the pupil on the same day as the incident occurred, the debrief will take place as soon as possible after the pupil returns to school. All members of staff involved will be allowed a period to debrief and recover from the incident. This may involve access to external support. A senior member of staff (or her/his nominee) will provide support to the member of staff involved.

Parents or carers will be advised as soon as possible of any incident involving their child and given the opportunity to discuss it.

All parents/carers will be able to access the policy via the school website/learning platform.

Complaints

Complaints will be dealt with by the Head teacher and a committee of the Governing Body. The use of restrictive physical interventions must always be considered within the wider context of other measures. These include establishing and maintaining good relationships with students and using diversions, diffusion and negotiation to respond to difficult situations.

Use of physical intervention that is unwarranted, excessive or punitive is not acceptable. Failure to comply with this principle, when considering or using physical force, should be dealt with under school disciplinary procedures.

Statutory Duty of the School

The Head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies. The Head teacher will ensure that all staff are supported and have the opportunity to attend appropriate training course including Positive Handling Strategies.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Governing body will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

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Reviewed: April 2016

Next Review: April 2018