



Pikes Lane Primary School

Physical intervention policy

LEADING SCHOOL | LEARNING SCHOOL | INCLUSIVE SCHOOL | HEALTHY SCHOOL | EXTENDED SCHOOL | REFLECTIVE SCHOOL

Policy Leader: Extended services and pupil welfare manager



This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies:

Reflective behaviour policy

Safeguarding and child protection policy

OBJECTIVES

Good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure effective learning and teaching in our School. It is recognised that the majority of pupils at Pikes Lane Primary School respond positively to the strategies used by staff. It is acknowledged that, in exceptional circumstances, staff may need to take action in situations where the use of reasonable, proportionate and necessary force may be required. Pikes Lane Primary School acknowledges that physical techniques are only a small part of a whole setting approach to risk and behaviour management.

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 use of force is necessary
- are provided with appropriate training to deal with these difficult situations
- have their practice monitored to maintain safety and quality.

MINIMISING THE NEED TO USE FORCE

At Pikes Lane Primary School we constantly strive to create a calm environment that minimises the risk of incidents arising that might require the use of force. The school uses the zones of regulation and the RSHE curriculum to help pupils to learn about feelings, rights and manage conflict. The School curriculum and ethos promote independence, choice and inclusion and pupils are given maximum opportunity for personal growth and emotional wellbeing.

Members of staff are Team Teach trained and safer schools trained to help them to defuse situations before behaviour becomes challenging and how to de-escalate incidents should they arise. Reasonable force will only be used when the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved in not using force.

Whilst the physical techniques are intended to reduce risk, there is always risk when two or more people engage to use force to protect, release or restrain. The physical intervention techniques used seek to avoid injury to the pupil, but it is possible that bruising or scratching may occur accidentally, and these are not to be seen necessarily as a failure of professional technique, but a regrettable and infrequent side effect of ensuring that the service user remains safe.

THE USE OF FORCE TO CONTROL OR RESTRAIN PUPILS

Provision came into force on 1st September 1998 (Section 550A of the Education Act 1996). This law was further revised in 2013 and is covered in the government document below;

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444051/Use_of_reasonable_force_advice_Reviewed_July_2015.pdf

This clarifies the powers of teachers and other staff who have lawful control or charge of pupils, to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing a crime; causing injury or damage or causing disruption.

Reasonable force can be used to prevent a pupil 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 pupil was not under the age of criminal responsibility);
- injuring themselves or others;
- causing damage to property (including the pupil's own property);

- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in a classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere;

There are a wide variety of situations in which reasonable force might be appropriate, or necessary to control or restrain a pupil:-

- 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 a risk of causing injury or damage by accident by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects;
- a pupil running in a corridor in a way in which he or she might have or cause an accident likely to injure themselves or others;
- a pupil absconds from a class or tries to leave school (N.B. this will only apply if a pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or at school);
- a pupil persistently refuses to obey an order to leave a classroom;
- a pupil is behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting a lesson;

APPLICATION OF FORCE

- physically interposing between pupils;
- blocking a pupil's path;
- holding; use of brace hold
- leading a pupil by the hand or arm;
- shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back;

Teachers always deal with situations through other strategies before using force. Strategies to diffuse and calm a situation are employed in the first instance. The use of reasonable force is never used as a substitute for good behavioural management. Throughout the process, it is important to try to diffuse the situation by using some or all of these methods where it is possible and safe to do so:-

- Using a calm voice
- Isolating the area so that there is no audience
- Bringing in a second member of staff
- Offering alternatives to behaviour e.g. "Why don't we sit down and talk this through"

If physical intervention is necessary the following principles apply: -

- The pupils will be warned verbally that physical restraint will be used (where time allows, e.g. for disruption to learning, not in case of preventing other pupils being harmed)
- Minimum force only will be applied
- Every effort to secure the presence of other staff will be made, if safety is not compromised in doing so
- Restraint will be an act of care and control, not punishment
- Acts of restraint will be carried out in a firm and calm manner without being aggressive towards pupils

Any member of staff needing to make use of physical intervention must record this in full on CPOMS and speak to the Head/ Deputy so that parents can be informed. Any occasion where restraint has been used will be reported to the parent within twenty-four hours by a member of SLT.

Following incidents requiring reasonable force the removing teacher takes the pupil to a quiet place and interviews the pupil to allow him/her to speak about the incident. The pupil is made aware of the seriousness of the incident and what will happen next. The procedure for dealing with major incidents (see reflective behaviour policy) would then come into play.

HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STAFF

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act, employees have a responsibility to report any circumstances which give rise to an increased risk to their Health and Safety. Staff who have, or acquire, permanently or temporarily, any medical condition that may impact on their ability to carry out physical intervention, have a duty to report these to the Headteacher immediately as there may be an impact on their own safety and that of colleagues and/or pupils.

AUTHORISATION

All Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Non-teaching Staff are formally authorised by the Headteacher to use physical restraint where the need may arise following the procedure outlined above.