



Bell Farm Primary School

Touch and the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy

Policy and Guidance for Staff at Bell Farm Primary School based on the Surrey County Council model school policy. All staff are made aware of the Surrey Policy on Touch and the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention and associated guidance.

This Policy is placed within the context of the school's Behaviour Policy; it is part of a graduated response, and has been agreed in consultation with staff, governors, parents/carers, and pupils. It also connects to, and is consistent with, policies on Health and Safety, Child Protection and safeguarding, Equal Opportunities, and Pastoral Care.

1. Introduction

The use of restrictive physical intervention needs to be consistent with the Human Rights Act (1988) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified 1991). These are based on the presumption that every person is entitled to:

- Respect for his or her private life
- The right not to be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment
- The right to liberty and security
- The right not to be discriminated against in his/her enjoyment of those rights.

At Bell Farm Primary school, we believe that pupils need to be safe, know how to behave, and know that the adults around them are able to manage them safely and confidently. For a very small minority of pupils the use of restrictive physical intervention may be needed, and, on such occasions, acceptable forms of intervention will be used.

The majority of pupils behave well and conform to the expectations of our school. We have responsibility to operate an effective behaviour policy that encompasses preventative strategies for tackling inappropriate behaviour in relation to the whole school, each class, and individual pupils.

All the school staff need to feel able to manage inappropriate risk and behaviour, and to have an understanding of what and how challenging behaviours might be communicated. They need to know what the options open to them are, and they need to be free of undue worries about the risks of legal action against them if they use appropriate physical intervention. Parents need to know that their children are safe with us, and they need to be properly informed if their child is the subject of a Restrictive Physical Intervention, including the nature of the intervention, and the rationale for its use.

2. Definition of 'restrictive physical intervention'

The Law allows for teachers and other persons authorised by the Head teacher to use Restrictive Physical Intervention to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following: -

- committing a criminal offence
- injuring themselves or others
- causing damage to property
- engaging in any behaviour that is prejudicial to maintain the good order and discipline at the school

"Restrictive Physical Intervention" is the term used to include interventions where bodily contact using force is used. It refers to any instance in which a teacher or other adult authorised by the Headteacher has to, in specific circumstances, use "reasonable force" to control or restrain pupils.

There is no legal definition of "reasonable force". However, there are two relevant considerations:

- the use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of an incident warrant it
- the degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness

of the behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent

The definition of physical force also includes the use of mechanical devices (e.g. splints on the pupil prescribed by medical colleagues to prevent self-injury), forcible seclusion or use of locked doors. It is important for staff to note that, although no physical contact may be made in the latter situations, this is still regarded as a Restrictive Physical Intervention.

3. When the use of restrictive physical interventions may be appropriate in Bell Farm Primary School

Restrictive Physical Interventions will be used when all other strategies have failed, and therefore only as a last resort. However, there are other situations when physical management may be necessary, for example in a situation of clear danger or extreme urgency. Certain pupils may become distressed, agitated, and out of control, and need calming with a brief Restrictive Physical Intervention that is un-resisted after a few seconds.

The safety and well being of all staff and pupils are important considerations. Under certain conditions this duty must be an over-riding factor.

Who may use restrictive physical intervention in Bell Farm School

All staff are authorised by the Headteacher to have charge of pupils, and must be aware of this Policy and its implications.

We take the view that staff should not be expected to put themselves in danger, and that removing pupils and themselves is the right thing to do. We value staff efforts to rectify what can be very difficult situations and in which they exercise their duty of care for the pupils.

Whilst all staff are therefore authorized by the headteacher to use Restrictive Physical Intervention if necessary, certain members of staff have a higher level of training in its use and, where possible, it is these staff members who should carry out any restrictive physical intervention. Those members of staff are: Anne Cooper, Ben Wasserberg, Liz McAdoo, Alison Beardon, Daniel Fellowes, Vicky O'Brien, Bernie Wood, Emma Robbins, Natalie Sasso, Catriona Anthony, Helena Saunders, Laura Walker, Emily Boulton and Aga Verboom.

4. Planning for the use of restrictive physical interventions in Bell Farm Primary School

Staff will use the minimum force needed to restore safety and appropriate behaviour.

The principles relating to the intervention are as follows: -

- Restrictive Physical Intervention is an act of care and control, not punishment. It is never used to force compliance with staff instructions
- staff will only use it when there are good grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary and in the pupil's and/or other pupil's best interests
- staff will take steps in advance to avoid the need for Restrictive Physical Intervention through dialogue and diversion and at the level of understanding of the child or young person
- only the minimum force necessary will be used to prevent severe distress, injury or damage
- staff will be able to show that the intervention used was in keeping with the incident
- every effort will be made to secure the presence of other staff, and these staff may act as assistants and/or witnesses
- as soon as it is safe, the Restrictive Physical Intervention will be relaxed to allow the pupil to regain

self-control

- a distinction will be maintained between the use of one-off intervention which is appropriate to a particular circumstance, and the using of it repeatedly as a regular feature of school policy
- escalation will be avoided at all costs, especially if it would make the overall situation more destructive and unmanageable
- the age, understanding, and competence of the individual pupil will always be taken into account
- in developing Individual Education/Behaviour Plans, consideration will be given to approaches appropriate to each pupil's circumstance
- procedures are in place, through the pastoral system of the school, for supporting and debriefing pupils and staff after every incident of Restrictive Physical Intervention, as it is essential to safeguard the emotional well-being of all involved at these times

5. Acceptable forms of intervention in Bell Farm Primary School

There are occasions when staff will have cause to have physical contact with pupils for a variety of reasons, for example:

- to comfort a pupil in distress (so long as this is appropriate to their age)
- to gently direct a pupil
- for curricular reasons (for example in PE, drama etc.)
- in an emergency to avert danger to the pupil or pupils
- in rare circumstances, when Restrictive Physical Intervention is warranted

In all situations where physical contact between staff and pupils takes place, staff must consider the following:

- the pupil's age and level of understanding
- the pupil's individual characteristics and history
- the location where the contact takes place (it should not take place private without others present)

Physical contact is never made as a punishment, or to inflict pain. All forms of corporal punishment are prohibited. Physical contact will not be made with the participants' neck, breasts, abdomen, genital area, other sensitive body parts, or to put pressure on joints. It will not become a habit between a member of staff and a particular pupil.

6. Developing a risk assessment at Bell Farm Primary School

If a pupil is identified for whom it is felt that Restrictive Physical Intervention is likely, then a risk assessment will be completed. This assessment will help the pupil and staff to avoid difficult situations through understanding the factors that influence the behaviour and identifying the early warning signs that indicate foreseeable behaviours that may be developing.

The assessment will include:

- Involving parents/carers and pupils to ensure they are clear about what specific action the school may take, when and why

- Measures to ensure staff and others act reasonably, consider the risks, and learn from what happens
- A record needs to be kept in school of risk reduction options that have been examined and discounted, as well as those used
- Managing the pupil, strategies to de-escalate a conflict, and stating at which point a Restrictive Physical Intervention is to be used
- Identifying key staff who know exactly what is expected. It is best that these staff are well known to the pupil
- Ensuring a system to summon additional support

7. Guidance and training for staff

Guidance and training is essential in this area. In Bell Farm School this is arranged at a number of levels including:

- awareness for governors, staff and parents
- behaviour management for all staff
- managing conflict in challenging situations - all staff
- specific training on Restrictive Physical Intervention techniques - all staff
- further training on Restrictive Physical Intervention techniques – some staff

8. Complaints

It is intended that by adopting this policy and keeping parents and governors informed we could avoid the need for complaints. All disputes that arise about the use of force by a member of staff will be dealt with according to Surrey's Child Protection and Safeguarding policies.

Bell Farm Primary School

The use of restrictive physical interventions by staff

This procedure supports the application of the Surrey County Council policy and guidance on the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention. All staff should study the policy statement carefully – it can be found in RM staff.

1. The person responsible for authorising staff to use restrictive physical intervention within this school is the Headteacher.
2. Copies of all risk assessments are held in the SENCO's office with copies with the pupil's section 5 and are reviewed termly alongside the section 5.
3. The person responsible for ensuring that all planned use of restrictive physical intervention is risk assessed is the Inclusion lead (currently the Assistant Headteacher).
4. Training records are held by the School Business Manager.
5. Those not involved in risk assessment but whose roles include the supervision of children may use reasonable force in an emergency unplanned intervention where it is necessary.
6. Every use of restrictive physical intervention is to be reported immediately to the Headteacher or the Deputy in charge if the Headteacher is off-site. The Headteacher or Deputy will ensure that a parent of the child who has had force used against them is notified.
7. In addition, the details of each use of physical intervention must be recorded on the Blue Form – Pupil Incident Report Form (available from the School Business Manager). The person leading the planned or unplanned intervention must complete this form on the same day as the incident. The Headteacher will review every use of physical intervention.

Status of Policy	Date
Authored by Valerie Blackwell	January 2012
Policy reviewed	May 2017
Agreed by Staff	January 2014
Agreed by Governors (C & L)	January 2016
Review	Every two years, January 2018

CONSEQUENCES: (how did the staff intervene, how did the child respond, and how was the situation resolved)

NAMES OF THOSE INVOLVED: (staff and pupils)

NAMES OF WITNESSES: (staff and pupils)

SIGNATURE OF REPORT COMPILER:

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PART B (to be completed if the use of restrictive physical intervention has occurred)

WHAT DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES WERE USED PRIOR TO PHYSICAL CONTROLS:

(tick the appropriate box below)

Defusing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Time out offer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deflection	<input type="checkbox"/>	Time out directed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Distraction take up time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changes of task	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appropriate Humour	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proximity control	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limits	<input type="checkbox"/>
Verbal advice/support	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consequences	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rule reminder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Another member of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hurdle help	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planned ignoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>

JUSTIFICATION FOR USE OF PHYSICAL CONTROLS:

(tick the appropriate box below)

To prevent/interrupt;	A criminal offence	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Injury to pupil/staff/others	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Serious damage to property	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disruptive behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Pupil absconding	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>

NATURE OF RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTION USED:

(Insert language relevant to training received and include estimate of duration of use of physical intervention)

Standing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sitting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kneeling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floor (Prone)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floor (Supine)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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RESPONSE AND VIEW OF THE PUPIL: (this field must be completed)

DETAILS OF ANY RESULTING INJURY:

(injury to whom and action taken as a result, e.g. first aid, medical treatment)

ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

NAME OF SENIOR PERSON NOTIFIED:		TIME/DATE	
HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS:			
SIGNATURE OF HEADTEACHER:		DATE:	