



Physical Intervention Policy

FOREST OF DEAN TRUST

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Owner	DMo
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Reference

School Behaviour policy
Safeguarding and Child Protection policy
Safer Working Practice
Staff Behaviour Policy (Code of Conduct)
Working together to safeguard Children

Introduction

This policy is designed to help staff to understand how to deal as safely as possible with challenging behaviour as defined by S. 550 Education Act 1996.

Positive Behaviour Management

One of the most effective management strategies in schools has been shown to be careful planning to prevent difficulties arising. These preventative strategies create a context where acceptable behaviour is positively encouraged and where misbehaviour is reduced. An ethos is developed which emphasises care for others and themselves, courtesy to others and a commitment to respect, to be responsible and to cooperate.

To encourage positive behaviour staff should:

- Know their students as individuals
- Plan and organise to keep students on task
- Be flexible
- Continually observe and scan behaviour
- Control their own behaviour; stance, tone of voice etc
- Model the behaviour expected from the students
- Emphasise the positive
- Make rules clear
- Use reprimand sparingly and consistently
- Reflect on their own behaviour and learn from it

Where positive behaviour management strategies are not working with a student and their behaviour is becoming more challenging, then it is important for staff to know that:

The safety of both students and staff member is of equal importance
That, as a staff member, he/she has rights under the Education Act

The Use of Reasonable Force

Section 550A of the Education Act 1996 allows teachers, and other persons who are authorised by the Head teacher to have control or charge of students, to use such force as is reasonable to prevent a student from doing or continuing to do any of the following:

- Committing a criminal offence
- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property including the student's own
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order

The provision applies when the teacher or other authorised person is on the school premises or whenever he/she has lawful control e.g. school trip.

What is Reasonable Force?

There is no definition of reasonable force. It will always depend on the circumstances.

- The use of force can be regarded as reasonable if the circumstances warrant it. It should not be used for trivial misdemeanours, or in a situation that could be resolved without force.
- The degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances.
- Any force used should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

At the Forest of Dean Trust, staff do not wish to use restraint procedures. This means that should an incident occur staff should:

- Try to calm the situation
- Clear other students away from the incident
- Summon help from colleagues
- Only intervene physically if no other option is evident
- Staff are not obliged to put themselves at risk, but should continue to try to defuse the situation until help arrives

Before intervening physically a staff member should, wherever practicable, tell the student to stop, and tell them what will happen if they do not. Staff should remain calm.

The Application of Reasonable Force

Force can be:

- Physically interposing between students;
- Blocking a student's path;
- Leading by hand or arm;
- Shepherding away by placing hand in centre of the back;
- Pushing;
- Pulling;
- Holding
- Using restrictive holds.

In no circumstances should a member of staff act in such a way that injury might be inflicted such as:

- holding around neck or collar so that breathing could be restricted;
- Slapping;
- Punching;
- Kicking;
- Twisting or forcing limbs against the joint;
- Tripping;
- Holding or pulling by hair or ear;
- Holding a student face down on the ground
- Staff should avoid touching or holding in any way that might be construed as indecent

Planning for Challenging Behaviour

If the school is, aware that certain students are likely to behave in a way that might require physical intervention then planning should be in place, such as:

A risk assessment

Positive behaviour management strategies

Preventative strategies such as remaining calm, diffuse, divert or de-escalate behavior

Involve the parents to ensure they are clear about the specific actions the school might need to make

Meet with parents and carers to establish the school's stance and reach an agreement of any intervention that may be needed

Staff must:

- Understand the school's policy and their rights under section 550A this is distributed to staff at the beginning of the academic year.
- During staff induction training, introduce staff to preventative strategies in calming, diverting, defusing challenging behaviour.

Recording Incidents

- Incidents should be recorded on the school MIS so that we have a log of actions taken. A separate account written by each person involved and any witness will be necessary (see Appendix A)
- Parents should be informed and invited in to discuss the incident
- Where a parent complains that unreasonable force has been used, the school should follow the Child Protection procedures

Support and Debriefing

Being involved in dealing with challenging behaviour can often be an unsettling experience for staff and students. There is a need to provide appropriate support, including;

Immediate support to discuss their feelings

Debriefing after the event to allow time to reflect and learn from the incident

Counselling if needed

Dealing with challenging behaviour is difficult and staff are not expected to get it right every time. However, the school can expect staff to read and know this policy and to act reasonably and responsibly, balancing the safety of the child with their own safety.

Appendix A:

Physical Intervention Record

This should be completed within 48 hours of the incident occurring or when appropriate following the incident

Date of incident:	Time of incident:
Location:	Staff involved:
Students involved:	
Other witnesses:	
Preamble: Please give details of the event that happened prior to physical intervention taking place	
Physical intervention: Please give details of the type of physical intervention involved, including the length of time the physical intervention continued for	
Was anyone physically injured? Yes/No Please give details of any injuries that occurred during this incident (Who/How?)	
Was medical advice considered necessary? Yes/No Please give details of who provided advice and the outcome	
Follow up actions required:	
Action	Staff responsible
Signed:	Date:

Please complete and return to the Headteacher.