



# **Physical Restraint Policy**

## **VERSION: June 2024**

## **NEXT REVIEW: June 2026**

### **Physical Intervention**

It is recognised that in specific circumstances of serious threat to pupils, 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. We follow the guidelines and protocols for physical restraint of Leicestershire County Council.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our school Behaviour Policy.

### **Staff Training**

A number of staff who have been trained to an appropriate level are sanctioned 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, could be expected to reflect the person's previous training in the appropriate use of Positive Handling Strategies.

A register of trained staff and staff authorized to apply Positive Handling techniques is held in the school office with certificates.

### **Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention**

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

- i. 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)
- ii. Causing personal injury to or damage to the property of any person (including the pupil her/himself).
- iii. Engaging in any behaviour that may cause serious harm or injury to staff, teachers or other people on the school site (including the pupil her/himself)

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

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

Ref: 1098, Section 550A, 1996 Education Act

### **Recording**

Incidents where physical interventions have been used should be reported to S Newman (Executive Headteacher) or Juliet McAuliffe or Nicola Middleton (Assistant Headteacher), via the record and reporting system.

An account of the incident should be completed within 24 hours after the incident and should be given to the Executive Headteacher. It is recommended that staff seek advice from a senior colleague or a representation of their professional association when completing the report, where it was a complicated situation, or if a child is inadvertently hurt in the restraint. Any incident will be reported to the governing body through the termly report to Governors.

In addition, following a physical intervention a serious incident form (appendix 1) should be completed for the pupil involved. If the pupil already has a Positive Handling Plan then the plan will be reviewed. All pupils who display consistent serious behaviours will have a risk assessment and physical intervention plan. Parents will be part of this process at all times.

### **Injury to staff**

Some staff are trained in supporting pupils who at some time may need positive handling interventions. If a member of staff is injured by a pupil, they must complete a serious incident form. These forms are monitored by the EHT and serious injury reported electronically to the Local Authority.

### **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 pupil involved will be given welfare support. They will be provided with an opportunity to talk about what happened in a calm and safe environment, usually by the Executive Headteacher.

Parents or carers will be advised as soon as possible of the incident involving their child and given the opportunity to discuss it. A record is kept of these discussions with parents.

### **Complaints**

Complaints will be dealt with in line with the school's Complaints Policy.

### **Statutory Duty of the School**

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

**Appendix 1` – Examples of Forms kept: Incident forms (kept in Headteacher's office)**



Ashby Hill Top Primary School

**SERIOUS INCIDENT FORM (RESTRAINT)**

**Child's Name:**.....

**Date:**..... **Time:**..... **Duration of restraint:**.....

**Staff Name:**..... **Staff Signature:**.....

**Name of Witness(es):**.....

**Description of incident leading to restraint (observed behaviour, violence to pupil or staff, threat of self-harm etc)**

**Type of restraint used and duration of restraint:**

**Exclusion Yes / No**

**Referred to governors/social services/other external authorities**



