

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION AND RESTRAINT POLICY

Date this policy was formally reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body of Kelvin Grove Primary School:	18.3.19
Signed on behalf of the Governing Body by:	Mr Ian Mearns MP Chair of Governors
Signature:	
Date:	18.3.19
Details and dates of minor amendments:	4.4.16 policy reviewed by CC –reviewed also by Head Teacher 8.5.16. Title changed 20.5.16.
Date next full review is due:	Spring 2022

Please note that this school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, governors, parents and visitors to share this commitment.



Introduction

Kelvin Grove Primary School is committed to maintaining the safety of pupils and staff. Situations involving decisions about whether to use physical intervention can occur in school. This policy seeks to establish clear guidelines on the use of physical intervention by staff and acts as an important part in minimising risks associated with choosing to use or not use physical intervention. Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use such physical intervention as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- a. committing any criminal offence
- b. causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil him/herself)
- c. prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Objectives

This policy seeks to:

- Ensure the safety of pupils and staff
- Prevent serious breaches of school discipline
- Prevent serious injury to staff and/or pupils
- Provide guidelines to staff when faced with situations that may require the use of physical intervention.

Minimising the use of physical intervention

The following principles should help to minimise the need to use physical intervention:

- Establishing a calm school environment
- Ensuring appropriate levels of supervision, including break and lunchtimes
- Teaching pupils how to manage conflict and strong feelings
- Using emotional intelligence to de-escalate incidents if they do arise
- Developing appropriate risk assessments and positive handling plans for individual pupils
- Only using physical intervention where the member of staff considers that the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved in not using physical intervention.



Staff Authorisation

Permanent authorisation:

All teachers and support staff who have control or charge of pupils automatically have the statutory power to use physical intervention. This includes teachers, teaching assistants and pupil welfare staff.

Temporary authorisation: May be issued by the Head Teacher to other members of staff involved in supervising pupils, e.g. site staff, office staff or volunteers. Any such authorisation will be given in advance, in writing and will be time limited.

Deciding whether to use physical intervention

Physical intervention may be considered when:

- There is a need to prevent injury to another pupil and/or member of staff or to the pupil themselves
- A pupil fails to comply with a reasonable instruction to stop an action that is potentially dangerous to themselves or others
- A pupil's actions place in jeopardy the health and safety of others
- A pupil's behaviour seriously prejudices good order and discipline in the school

Members of staff should use the following guidelines to decide whether or not physical intervention should be used in particular circumstances:

- The potential consequences of not intervening were sufficiently serious to justify considering using physical intervention.
- The chances of achieving the desired result by other means were judged to be low.
- The risk associated with not using physical intervention outweighs those of using physical intervention.
- There was identifiable risk to other pupils and/or members of staff and/or school property.

Proper account should be made of any particular Special Education Need and/or disability that a pupil may have. It is worth noting, however, that decisions often need to be made quickly and that the professional judgement of the member of staff involved is key.

Staff should seek to minimise the most serious risks, for example calling the police for assistance if necessary and ensure that any physical intervention used is reasonable and proportionate.

Using physical intervention

- It is important to use the minimum physical intervention necessary to achieve the desired result. It is always unlawful to use physical intervention as a punishment.
- A clear verbal warning should be given to the pupil that physical intervention may have to be used.
- Restraint that is likely to injure a pupil (particularly anything that could constrict breathing) should only be used in extreme cases or where there was no viable alternative.
- Wherever possible physical intervention should not be used unless there is another responsible adult present to support, observe and call for assistance.

The types of physical intervention used could include:

- a. Passive physical contact resulting from standing between pupils or blocking pupils
- b. Active physical contact such as:
 - i) leading a pupil by the hand or arm
 - ii) ushering a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back
 - iii) in more extreme cases using appropriate physical restraint.

Where there is a high and immediate risk of death or serious injury, a member of staff is justified in taking any necessary action (consistent with seeking to use the minimum physical intervention required to achieve the desired result) e.g. preventing a pupil running in to a busy road or preventing a pupil hitting someone with a dangerous object such as a hammer or glass bottle.

Staff should make every effort to avoid acting in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause injury. However it may not always be possible to avoid injuring a pupil. Staff should avoid touching or restraining a pupil in a way that could be interpreted as sexually inappropriate conduct.

Examples of situations that call for judgements of this kind might include:

- A pupil attacking a member of staff, or another pupil
- Pupils fighting
- A pupil deliberately damaging property
- A pupil causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, rough play, or by misuse of materials or objects



- A pupil persistently refusing to follow an instruction to leave a classroom
- A pupil behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a lesson, school event or visit
- A pupil placing him/herself at risk by absconding from school.

In these examples the use of physical intervention would be reasonable if the behaviour was sufficiently dangerous or disruptive to warrant physical intervention and could not realistically be dealt with by other means.

Recording incidents

Appendix A should be used to record details of any incidents requiring the use of physical intervention. This should be completed as soon as is practically possible after the incident and handed to the Head Teacher.

Complaints

All complaints made relating to the use of physical intervention will be dealt with according to the school's complaints procedure. Allegations about a member of staff will follow Gateshead guidelines.

Training

Staff will receive regular training as part of INSET provision on the appropriate use of physical intervention. **All staff received Team-Teach training in Autumn 2016. This staff training is due to be updated in Summer 2019.**

Monitoring and Review

The Head Teacher and members of the Leadership Team will monitor the use of this policy on a day to day basis. Periodic reports will be made to the Governing Body about the use and implementation of this policy. The policy is subject to regular review every 2 years or if necessary more frequently.

Equal Opportunities

The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

Appendix A

Use of Physical Intervention to Control or Restrain Pupils: Incident Record



Details of pupil or pupils on whom physical intervention was used by a member of staff (name, class)

Date, time and location of incident

Details of other pupils involved (directly or as witnesses), including whether any of the pupils involved were vulnerable for SEND, disability, medical or social reasons.

Description of incident by the staff involved, including any attempts to de-escalate and warnings that physical intervention might be used.

Reason for physical intervention and description of physical intervention used.

Any injury suffered by staff or pupils and any First Aid and/or medical attention required.

Reasons for making a record of the incident.

Follow up, including post-incident support and any disciplinary action against pupils.

Any information about the incident shared with staff not involved in it and external agencies.	
When and how those with parental responsibilities were informed about the incident and any views they have expressed.	
Has any complaint been lodged?	
<p>Report compiled by:</p> <p>Name and role:</p> <p>Signature:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Report countersigned by:</p> <p>Name and role:</p> <p>Signature:</p> <p>Date:</p>