



Robert Clack School of Science

Physical Intervention Policy 2026 - 2027

Approved by Executive Headteacher:

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Signed by Chair of Governors:

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Physical Intervention

Physical Intervention should only be used as a last resort when other forms of intervention have not worked or are impracticable. Physical intervention in terms of this policy is defined as 'the use of reasonable force to prevent a pupil from committing a crime, causing injury to themselves or others, causing damage to property or instigating others to cause injury or disruption.' Staff should always ensure that they maintain a non-confrontational manner when dealing with pupils and where possible send for a senior member of staff.

Guidelines

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and further guidance issued by the DfE in July 2013 (Use of reasonable force - Advice for Head Teachers, staff and governing bodies) enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- committing any offence (or, for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil);
- causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including himself); or
- 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.

The staff to which this power applies are defined in Section 95 of the Act as:

- any teacher who works at the school, and
- any other person whom the school has authorised to have control or charge of pupils

The statutory power conferred by Section 93 is in addition to the common law power of any citizen in an emergency to use reasonable force in self-defence, to prevent another person from being injured or committing a criminal offence. There is no legal definition of when it is reasonable to use force and each case must be judged on its circumstances and those exercising the power to use force must also take proper account of any particular special educational need and/or disability.

The types of force which are deemed to be reasonable are:

- Passive physical contact resulting from standing between two pupils or blocking a pupil's path
- active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the hand or arm; ushering a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of his/her back; or, in more extreme circumstances, using appropriate restrictive holds.

Decisions on whether circumstances justify the use of reasonable force will depend on:

- the seriousness of the incident
- the chances of achieving the desired result by other means
- the relative risks associated with physical intervention compared to using other strategies

Where possible a clear oral warning to the pupil that force may have to be used should be given.

Examples of situations that particularly call for judgements of this kind are:

- a pupil attacking another pupil or member of staff;
- pupils fighting and hence causing risk of injury to themselves or others;
- a pupil committing, or on the verge of committing, deliberate damage to property;
- a pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, rough play, or by the misuse of dangerous objects or materials;
- a pupil persistently refuses to follow an instruction to leave the classroom;
- a pupil is behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a lesson; or
- a pupil is behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a school sporting event or school visit.

All incidents where force has been used should be recorded using a referral or incident form and passed on to the Deputy Head Teachers of either site. Colleagues will need to write a full report of the incident as soon

as possible afterwards. Staff should be aware that physical intervention may result in a complaint being made by the pupil or parent/carer of the pupil concerned which will need to be investigated.

The guidance also emphasises that:

- ... it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.
- ... it is not illegal to touch a pupil.

Other physical contact with pupils

The DfE says that it is not illegal to touch a pupil and that there are occasions when physical contact with a pupil is 'proper and necessary'.

Examples of where touching a pupil might be proper or necessary include:

- When comforting a distressed pupil.
- When congratulating or praising a pupil.
- When demonstrating how to use a musical instrument.
- When demonstrating exercises or techniques during PE lessons or sports coaching.
- When giving first aid (appropriate personal protective equipment will be worn)

Pupil: **Date:** **Time:**

Staff involved: (1) (2) (3)

Duration of incident: **Location of incident** (*please circle as appropriate*)

Toilets – Playground – Car park – Dining Hall – Office – Corridor – Upstairs hall –
Downstairs hall – Secret garden – Other _____

Any other pupils involved:

Cause of incident: (*please describe what happened **before** the incident*)

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De-escalation Techniques Used: (*please circle where appropriate*)

(1) Non-Threatening Body Language (2) Reassurance (3) Calm Talking (4) Negotiation (5) Humour (6) Distraction
(7) Options offered (8) Step away (9) Instructions given (10) Consequences made clear (11) Time out offered
(12) Time out directed (13) Success reminder (14) Planned ignoring (15) Transfer adult

Reasons for intervention:

1. Immediate danger of personal injury to pupil ☐
2. Immediate danger of injury to another person ☐
3. To avoid damage to property ☐
4. Disruption to other pupils ☐
5. Absconding ☐

Behaviours involved during the incident (*please circle where apparent*)

Hitting Slapping Pinching Scratching Pushing Biting Head-butting Hair pulling Spitting Throwing objects
Grabbing Kicking Ripping Extreme noise Abusive Lang. Self-harm Destruction of property Threats to others

Further comments:

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Action taken: <i>(please circle where appropriate)</i>		
Verbal control	Isolation (where isolated?)	Physical Intervention
Positive Handling Strategies Used:		
Position <i>(please tick)</i> Standing† Kneeling† Sitting† Walking†		
Technique: <i>(please tick)</i> T-Wrap† Single elbow† Double elbow† Figure of four† Friendly hold† Other <i>(please specify)</i>		
Number of staff supporting: Other witnesses:		
Who supported who and for how long?		
Damage to property: <i>(please detail)</i>		
Value of property: <i>(if appropriate)</i>		
Injuries: <i>(please describe who what/ where and any treatment required).</i>		
Sanction given: Yes/ No Reparation taken place: Yes/ No		
Debrief taken place with child? Yes / No		
Parent/Carer notified: Yes/ No		
Name of parent:		
Signature of parent: Date:		
Time:		
Name of reporting adult:		
Signature of reporting adult:		
Position:		
Checked and signed by:		
Position:		
Date:		