



# SOUTH CAMBERLEY PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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# Physical Intervention Policy

<b>Date of Approval</b>	<b>Date of Review</b>
September 2021	September 2024
<b>Status and Review Cycle</b>	<b>Non-statutory - Every 3 years</b>



## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Behaviour Certainties**

Ready

Respectful

Safe

At South Camberley 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 and reflective consequences. All the school staff need to feel able to manage inappropriate risk and behaviour, and to understand what and how challenging behaviours might be communicated. The need to know what the options are 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 Restrictive Physical Intervention, including the nature of the intervention, and the rationale for its use.

### **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 by the DfE 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 Head teacher has to, in specific circumstances, use “reasonable force” to control or restrain pupils. There is 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 situation, this is still regarded as a Restrictive Physical Intervention.

## **When the use of Restrictive Physical Interventions may be appropriate in South Camberley School**

Restrictive Physical Intervention 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 unresisted 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.

Planning for the use of restrictive physical interventions in South Camberley School

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

The principles relating to 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 a 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 considered
- 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.

## **Acceptable forms of intervention in South Camberley 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 circumstance, 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 in 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.

## **Recording of incidents**

A record sheet (see Appendix 1) will be completed by all staff engaged in any incident where handling has taken place even if they did not handle the child. The record sheets will be passed to the Inclusion Lead and then retained on CPOMS. The class teacher/ member of staff involved or Inclusion Lead will make parents aware of the incident.

Following any incident where force has been appropriate, the Head teacher will make arrangements to support the staff and students if required.

## **Developing a positive handling plan at South Camberley School**

If a pupil is identified for whom it is felt that Restrictive Physical Intervention is likely, then a Positive Handling Plan will be completed. This plan 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 plan will include:

- Involving parents/carers and pupils to ensure they are clear about what specific action the school may take, when and why
- A behaviour risk assessment 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
- Identifying training needs

### **Guidance and training for staff**

Guidance and training is essential in this area. We need to adopt the best possible practice. In South Camberley School this is arranged at a number of levels including:

- Awareness of Local Advisory Committee Members, staff and parents
- Behaviour management for all staff
- Managing conflict in challenging situations – all staff
- Specific training on Restrictive Physical Intervention techniques – all staff
- Positive Touch Training – all staff

### **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. If concerns arise please refer to the school's complaints procedure which is available on the school website.

**Appendix 1 – Record of Incident Form**

Details of student or students on whom Restrictive Physical Intervention was used by a member of staff

Name and Class	
Date, time and location of incident	
Names of staff involved (directly or as witnesses)	
Names of students involved (directly or as witnesses)	
Description of incident by the staff involved	
De-escalation techniques used (defusing, deflection, distraction, appropriate humour, proximity control, verbal advice, rule reminder, planned ignoring, time out, changes of task, choices, limits, consequences, another member of staff, other..)	
Justification for use of physical controls (To prevent a criminal offence, injury to student, staff, self, serious damage to property, disruptive behaviour, student absconding)	
Any injury suffered by staff or students and any first aid and/or medical attention required.	
Follow up, including post-incident support and any disciplinary action against students.	

Consequences (how did the staff intervene, how did the student respond and how was the situation resolved)			
When and how those with parental responsibility were informed about the incident and any views they have expressed.			
Response and view of the student ( <b>this field must be completed</b> ) *			
Report compiled by: (Name and role)		Signed	Date
Inclusion Lead Comments		Signed	Date

\*If child is unable to communicate feelings and views effectively this will be completed by class teacher in collaboration with parents.

