



Buckingham Park
Church of England Primary School
Excellence, through God who strengthens us

Jubilee Square, Buckingham Park.
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. HP19 9DZ

Email: office@buckinghampark.org
Web: www.buckinghampark.org

School Policy Document:

Policy on the use of Physical Intervention and Reasonable Force

Date Adopted by Full Governing board:	26/02/2019
Last reviewed on:	26/02/2019
Next review due by:	30/04/2022

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. At Buckingham Park Church of England Primary School it is important that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, built on a clear Christian foundation and rooted in Christian values. We aim to provide the highest quality all round education, for each and every child, in partnership with parents, within the context of a Christian community. In short, 'Excellence, through God who strengthens us'.
- 1.2. The school behaviour policy is designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure. The majority of pupils behave well and conform to the expectations of our school. The policy is available to read on the school website.
- 1.3. We believe that pupils need to be safe, to know how to behave, and to know that the adults around them are able to manage them safely and confidently. For a very small minority of pupils, the use of a physical intervention may be needed and this policy outlines the context, rationale and approach to such interventions.

2. FORMS OF PHYSICAL INTERVENTION

- 2.1. There are occasions when physical contact with a pupil is proper and necessary.
- 2.2. The school recognises that not all children feel comfortable about certain types of physical contact; this should be recognised and, wherever possible, adults should seek the pupil's permission before initiating contact and be sensitive to any signs that they may be uncomfortable or embarrassed.
- 2.3. The following list is not exhaustive but provides some examples where physical contact with a pupil might be proper or necessary include:
 - Holding the hand of the child at the front/back of the line when walking together around the school
 - When comforting a distressed pupil
 - When a pupil is being congratulated or praised
 - To demonstrate how to use a musical instrument
 - To demonstrate exercises or techniques during PE lessons or sports coaching
 - To give first aid.
- 2.4. In rare circumstances, it may be necessary for a member of staff to use reasonable force in physical contact with a child. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions which are usually used either to control or restrain. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom. Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control.
- 2.5. A physical intervention, with or without force, should never be used as a punishment – it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.
- 2.6. Throughout this document, a physical intervention using force is termed a 'Restrictive Physical Intervention' (RPI).

3. THE USE OF 'REASONABLE FORCE'

- 3.1. All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force.
- 3.2. 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.

- 3.3. Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.
- 3.4. The decision on whether or not to use a restrictive physical intervention is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances. Any action taken must be reasonable, proportionate and necessary; and in the best interest of the young person.
- 3.5. Schools do not require parental consent to use reasonable force.
- 3.6. The following list is not exhaustive but provides some examples of situations where reasonable force may be used.
 - To remove a disruptive child from the classroom where he or she has refused to follow an instruction to do so
 - To prevent a pupil from committing a criminal offence (this applies even if they are below the age of criminal responsibility)
 - To prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit
 - To prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk his or her safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others
 - To prevent a pupil from injuring self or others
 - To prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight
 - To prevent a pupil from damaging property (including his or her own property)

4. USE OF REASONABLE FORCE AT BUCKINGHAM PARK

- 4.1. Reasonable force will generally be used as a last resort. All staff will focus on de-escalation and preventative strategies.
- 4.2. There are situations when restrictive physical interventions may be necessary, as outlined in section 3.
- 4.3. The safety and well-being of all staff and pupils are important considerations. Under certain conditions this duty must be an over-riding factor.
- 4.4. The principles relating to our use of restrictive physical interventions are as follows:
 - A restrictive physical intervention is an act of care and control, not punishment.
 - Staff will only use force when there are good grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary and that it is in the pupil's and/or other pupils' best interests for staff to intervene physically.
 - Staff will take steps in advance to avoid the need for reasonable force through dialogue and diversion. The pupil will be warned, at their level of understanding, that reasonable force may be used
 - Staff will use the minimum force necessary to ensure safe outcomes
 - Staff will be able to show that the intervention used was a reasonable response to 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 physical intervention will be relaxed to allow the pupil to regain self-control
 - 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 taken into account
 - Consideration will be given to approaches appropriate to each pupil's circumstance
- 4.5. Support and debriefing for pupils and staff will be offered after every occasion when a restrictive physical intervention is used, as it is essential to safeguard the emotional well-being of all involved at these times.

5. SAFER WORKING PRACTICE

- 5.1. To reduce the risk of allegations, all staff should be aware of safer working practice and should be familiar with the guidance contained in the staff handbook.

6. PLANNING FOR RISK REDUCTION

- 6.1. If a pupil is identified for whom it is felt that restrictive physical interventions may be a likely result, then a behaviour support 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.

7. GUIDANCE AND TRAINING FOR STAFF

- 7.1. Guidance and training are essential in this area. We aim to adopt the best possible practice and recognise that this is supported by appropriate professional development and support for staff members.
- 7.2. There is no legal requirement for staff to be trained in the use of practical techniques but it is recognised that such training may be required for staff where there is a significant likelihood of them needing to intervene physically due to the nature of the pupil (or pupils) that they are working with.

8. RECORDING AND REPORTING

- 8.1. Whilst there is no legal requirement to record the use of a restrictive physical intervention, we will record all such incidents, whether planned or unplanned (emergency) as quickly as practicable.
- 8.2. The written record will be made on Behaviour Watch and will indicate:
- The names of the staff and pupils involved
 - The reason for using a restrictive physical intervention
 - The type of restrictive physical intervention employed
 - How the incident began and progressed, including details of the pupil's behaviour, what was said by each of the parties, the steps taken to defuse or calm the situation, the degree of force used, how that was applied, and for how long
 - The date and the duration of the intervention
 - Whether the pupil or anyone else experienced injury or distress and, if they did, what action was taken
- 8.3. Serious incidents involving the use of force will be reported to parents.

9. COMPLAINTS

- 9.1. It is intended that by adopting this policy and keeping parents and governors informed we can avoid or minimise the likelihood of any complaints being made.
- 9.2. All disputes which arise about the use of force by a member of staff will be dealt with according to the school's existing policies (including Complaints Procedure, Managing Allegations against Staff and Volunteers, and Safeguarding Policies).