Faith Primary Academy

Physical Intervention Policy

Our school vision is inspired by the bible verse Ephesians 5: 8-9:
For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

Faith Primary is a joint Catholic and Church of England Academy. Guided by our Christian ethos we are here to serve the community, helping the children and all involved in the school to reach their full potential in a safe and happy environment.

"Loving and Learning in the Light of the Lord"

Love Generosity Compassion Courage Forgiveness Friendship Respect

Reviewed: **September 2025** Review date: **September 2027**

Physical Intervention Policy

At Faith Primary Academy we are committed to a positive behaviour policy which encourages children to make positive behaviour choices. We do however recognise that children sometimes do make the wrong choices. On rare occasions this may result in a situation that requires some form of physical intervention by staff. Our policy for physical intervention is based upon the following principles:-

- Physical intervention should be used only as a last resort when other appropriate strategies have failed.
- Any physical contact should be only the minimum required.
- Physical intervention must be used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.
- Incidents must be recorded and reported to the Headteacher as soon as possible
- Parents will be informed of each incident.

1. The Legal Framework

Section 93 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 allows 'teachers and other persons who are authorised by the Head Teacher who have control or charge of pupils to use such force as is reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:-

- causing injury to his/herself or others
- committing an offence
- damaging property
- prejudicing the maintenance of good order & discipline'

2. Our approach

At Faith Primary Academy we aim to avoid the need for physical intervention and regard this as a last resort in a tiny minority of situations. We always aim to deal with behaviour using a positive approach and therefore this policy should be read in connection with our Behaviour Policy.

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate and staff will have to exercise their own judgement in situations which arise within the above categories. Staff should always act within the School's policy on behaviour and discipline, particularly in dealing with disruptive behaviour.

Staff should be aware that when they are in charge of children during the school day, or during other supervised activities, they are acting in *loco parentis* and have a 'Duty of Care' to all children they are in charge of. They must, therefore, take reasonable action to ensure all pupils' safety and well being. Staff are not expected to place themselves in situations where they are likely to suffer injury as a result of their intervention.

3. Use of physical restraint

July 2024 Team Teach (positive handling) the training took place for all school and office staff. The Trust's Director of Safeguarding (Sarah Williams) is a qualified positive handling training and can provide Level 1, full training and refresher training, if and when required.

Physical restraint should be applied as an act of care and control with the intention or re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allowing the pupil to regain self-control. It should never take a form which could be seen as punishment.

Staff are only authorised to use reasonable force in applying physical restraint, although there is no absolute definition of this. What constitutes reasonable force depends upon the particular situation and the pupil to whom it is being applied. However, as a general rule, only the force necessary to stop or prevent danger should be used, in accordance with the guidelines below.

In all circumstances, alternative methods should be used as appropriate with physical intervention or restraint, a last resort.

When physical restraint becomes necessary:

DO

- Tell the pupil what you are doing and why
- Use the minimum force necessary
- Involve another member of staff if possible
- Tell the pupil what s/he must do for you to remove the restraint (this may need frequent repetition)
- Use simple and clear language
- Hold limbs above a major joint if possible e.g. above the elbow • Relax your restraint in response to the pupil's compliance

DON'T

- Act in temper (involve another staff member if you fear loss of control)
- Involve yourself in a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil
- Involve other pupils in the restraint
- Touch or hold the pupil in a way that could be viewed as sexually inappropriate conduct
- Twist or force limbs back against a joint
- Hold the pupil in a way which will restrict blood flow or breathing e.g. around the neck

4. Actions after an incident

Physical restraint often occurs in response to highly charged emotional situations and there is a clear need for debriefing after the incident, both for the staff involved and the pupil. **The head teacher should be informed of any incident as soon as possible** and will take responsibility for making arrangements for debriefing once the situation has stabilised. An appropriate member of the teaching staff should always be involved in debriefing the pupil involved and any victims of the incident should be offered support, and their parents informed.

If the behaviour is part of an ongoing pattern it may be necessary to address the situation through the development of a behavioural plan, which may include an anger management programme, or other strategies agreed by the SENCO.
In some circumstances an EHAT may be appropriate to help identify an additional need for a particular child.

It is also helpful to consider the circumstances precipitating the incident to explore ways in which future incidents can be avoided.

All incidents should be recorded immediately on the Pupil Restraint Report Form (attached). All sections of this report should be completed so that any patterns of behaviour can be identified and addressed. In the event of any future complaint or allegation this record will provide essential and accurate information.

A copy should be filed in the child's appropriate file and in a central school file in order to inform individual and school risk assessments.

A member of the leadership team will contact parents as soon as possible after an incident, normally on the same day, to inform them of the actions that were taken and why, and to provide them with an opportunity to discuss it.

5. Risk Assessments

If we become aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a disruptive way that may require the use of reasonable force, we will plan how to respond if the situation arises. Such planning will address:

- Strategies to be used prior to intervention
- Ways of avoiding 'triggers' if these are known
- Involvement of parents to ensure that they are clear about the specific action the school might need to take
- Briefing of staff to ensure they know exactly what action they should be taking (this may identify a need for training or guidance)
- Identification of additional support that can be summoned if appropriate ➢ The school's duty of care to all pupils and staff

6. Complaints and Allegations

A clear restraint policy, adhered to by all staff and shared with parents, should help to avoid complaints from parents. It is unlikely to prevent all complaints, however, and a dispute about the use of force by a member of staff might lead to an investigation, either under the complaints disciplinary or allegation management procedures.

It is our intention to inform all staff, pupils, parents and governors about these procedures and the context in which they apply.

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Faith Primary Academy

RECORD OF PHYSICAL INTERVENTION

Date of incident: Time of incident:

Pupil Name: D.o.B:

Member(s) of staff involved:

Adult witnesses to physical intervention:

Pupil witnesses to physical intervention:

Outline of event leading to physical intervention:

Outline of incident of physical intervention:

Outcome of physical intervention:

Description of any injury(ies) sustained by injured pupil and any subsequent treatment:

Date parent/carer informed of incident:

Time:

By whom informed:

Outline of parent/carer response:

Signature of staff completing report: Date:

Signature of Teacher-in-charge: Date:

Signature of Headteacher: Date:

Brief description of any subsequent inquiry/complaint or action: