



Hazelwood School

## **PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY**

***This Policy includes the Nursery and Early Years Foundation Stage***

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On some occasions it may be necessary, in the interests of all children and for the safety of all children, to physically restrain a child who is in danger of hurting himself/herself or others. This policy is in line with Government guidelines. For further advice and clarification, please refer to 'Use of Reasonable Force' (July 2013) by the DfE

### **Knowing when to take action**

Although it is the right of pupils in school not to be touched, the staff has a duty to safeguard the welfare of all children and a member of staff might be deemed negligent if no action was taken, e.g. not intervening when a child runs out onto the road. Therefore a member of staff must use his/her judgement, depending on individual circumstances when deciding whether restraint is appropriate.

Physical restraint should always be the last resort and pupils should be warned orally, that physical restraint will be used unless he/she desists.

### **Reasonable force will be used**

- In self defence, where risk of injury is imminent.
- Where there is a developing risk of injury to the pupil (himself/herself) or others.
- To prevent pupils from damaging property or causing disorder that is likely to lead to an increased risk of injury to persons present.
- Where physical restraint is used, staff must exercise the utmost care; prevention of physical harm should be the primary consideration.

At the point that a member of staff believes physical restraint may be required, a second member of staff must be called for immediately

The pupil must be told the action being taken is for the good of the child; trying to keep him/her safe.

The pupil must be assured that the restraint is not a punishment.

The scale and nature of any physical intervention must be proportionate to both the risk present or behaviour of the individual and the nature of the harm they might cause or suffer.

Other children must never be used in the restraint.

Restraint should be maintained for the minimum time necessary to calm the situation.

**Staff should not act in a way that could be expected to cause injury\*, for example**

- Holding a pupil around the neck, or by the collar, or in any other way that might restrict the pupil's ability to breathe;
- Slapping, punching or kicking a pupil;
- Twisting or forcing limbs against a joint;
- Tripping up a pupil;
- Holding or pulling a pupil by the hair or ear;
- Holding a pupil face down on the ground;
- Touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered indecent.

\*This is particularly relevant to the Nursery and Early Years setting where the children are physically less well developed and more prone to injury from any act of restraint.

\*Except when not acting could be regarded as negligence (for example, in the case of choking)

**After the incident:**

The Head must be informed immediately.

The incident should be followed up with time for the adult and child to talk about the situation.

The circumstances must be recorded as soon as possible stating the time, duration, details of hold used, injuries, witnesses and further actions or events. A formal report will be kept on the child's file.

**Parents will be informed of any incident where it has been necessary to restrain their child as soon as it is practicably possible and certainly before the child is returned to the parent.**

In addition to this Policy, children with specific behavioural or education needs will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, with agreement from parents, as their unique requirements may necessitate an individual approach.

**Ratified by the Compliance Committee Spring 2017**  
**Alison Curson**  
**Chair of Compliance Committee**