



Amington Heath Primary School and Nursery

Positive Handling including Physical Restraint

School Own Policy

Approved on: 16/01/2025

Review by: 16/01/2027



Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all staff members, including teachers, teaching assistants, and support staff, as well as volunteers and anyone else working on behalf of the school.

Purpose of the Policy

Staff at Amington Heath Primary School are trained to look after pupils in their care. Staff have a duty to intervene in order to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others. If a member of staff needs to intervene physically they will follow the school's Positive Handling Policy. It's the policy of Amington Heath Primary that all staff using this technique are trained in positive behaviour strategies and protective physical interventions to complement the behaviour management approaches and strategies reflected in the school behaviour policy. Staff at Amington Heath have positive handling training delivered by Dynamis. Further information on this training can be found here: www.dynamis.training/positive-handling-schools/

The purpose of this Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy is to provide clear guidance on the use of physical intervention in Amington Heath Primary School. This policy aims to ensure the safety and well-being of all children, staff, and visitors while respecting the rights and dignity of every child. It aligns with the latest UK government legislation, including the Education Act 1996, the Children Act 1989, and the guidance provided in "Use of reasonable force in schools" (DfE, 2013).

Legislation and Guidance

Human Rights Act 1998

Education and Inspections Act 2006

Children Act 1989

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1999

Use of Reasonable Force Guidance 2013

Equality Act 2010

Positive Handling

The term positive handling includes a wide range of supportive strategies for managing challenging behaviour. The term 'physical restraint' is used when force is used to overcome active resistance. A clear and consistent positive handling policy supports pupils within an ethos of mutual respect, care and safety.

The school takes seriously its duty of care to pupils, employees and visitors to the school. The first and paramount consideration is the welfare of the children in our care. The second is the welfare and protection of the adults who look after them.

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables the school's staff to use such force as is reasonable. There is no legal definition of when it is reasonable to use force. Staff at Amington Heath Primary School are trained in using positive handling techniques through Dynamis, which is recognised by the local authority and accredited through the ICM- The institute of conflict management.

Although any member of staff may be required to physically intervene with a pupil who is endangering themselves or others, we would expect accredited staff to take over as soon as possible. An up-to-date list of trained staff is kept by the Head Teacher.



Containment

Using containment is a safe strategy to reduce overall risk. The intention is isolate and reduce the risk. The area should be evacuated of all other children. It might be reasonable to create a barrier, such as a door to restrict mobility. During containment, it is essential that a member of staff constantly supervises the child. Children contained, and without an audience, often deescalate quickly.

Physical Restraint

It is unlawful to use force as a punishment.

Use of force should be **necessary** and **proportionate**.

When approaching a situation, staff should be carrying out a dynamic risk assessment to establish the appropriate response.

Necessary?

It may be appropriate to use force, if:

There is an imminent risk.

Verbal de-escalation failed or would fail.

Disengaging or withdrawal failed or would fail.

There are no other viable options

Wherever possible, all strategies and steps outlines in the behaviour policy should implemented first. Consideration should be made of any unmet need and efforts made to address these.

A member of staff may use reasonable force to prevent a child from doing (or continuing to do) any of the following:

- Committing any offence;
- Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of any person 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.

Examples of situations where physical restraint may be used include but are not limited to:

- Removing a disruptive child from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- Preventing a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- Prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- Preventing a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight;
- Restraining a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

Proportionate?

Force must be proportionate to the risk faced in the situation.

Consider: *What is the level of risk in what is happening right now?*
What is the level of response which is appropriate to the risk?

A proportionate response prevents a greater harm occurring. When establishing the level of risk, staff have been trained to consider proxemics (the space between people involved), kinetics (body language) and biometrics (e.g. heart rate, breathing, skin).



How many staff are needed?

One member of staff may safely use physical intervention on an individual child.

However, there are times when it is appropriate or necessary for two staff to use restraint on one child. If children are fighting, it would be necessary for two staff to use physical intervention on each child involved. Staff approaching an incident will decide on if or how much support is needed as part of a dynamic risk assessment. Every situation is different.

How long is child restrained for?

A child will be contained or restrained until the child is in a safe place and there is no risk to self, others or property.

Record Keeping

Any adults that carries out any restraint that a child resists must record this on the physical restraint record sheet. They must report the incident to SLT immediately.

Injury Risk Awareness

Manual Handling

Moving high and low loads, loads at a distance and those that are unstable and dynamic are higher risk in terms of injury to both the adult and child. Therefore, physical force should not be used to remove children from height, or from the floor. Lifting and carrying a child whilst maintaining restraint is also high risk and not an approved intervention. If a child drops to the floor during physical intervention, they should be allowed to lower to the floor.

Unacceptable Practices

When making a judgement about whether to physically restrain a child or young person, staff and management need to take account of relevant factors such as: are there any issues relating to the child's pre-existing medical conditions, or issues relating to the child's background and personal history of psychological trauma or other safety warnings which would influence the planned use of physical restraint with them.

Staff must not use force which causes:

- Compression or weight through the torso
- Compression or holding of the neck or head
- Hyper flexion – the body bent double like a suitcase
- Restraint on the floor

If a person who is being restrained starts to show signs of medical or physiological distress, then they should immediately be considered to be a medical emergency and dealt with accordingly by staff.

Example signs of physiological distress would include the person appearing to lose consciousness, for example suddenly going limp and another would be someone who is struggling to breathe properly.

If a person starts to show signs of becoming physiologically compromised during a restraint incident, there are certain actions staff can take to reduce risk. Including,

- Consider changing the TYPE of hold that the team is using, to improve the person's ability to breathe and recover.
- Consider starting appropriate First Aid procedures to assist the casualty.
- Consider changing the POSITION the person is in, to improve the person's ability to breathe and recover.
- Consider removing the restraint holds and CONTAINING rather than restraining.



Roles and Responsibilities

1. Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

- Ensure that the policy is implemented consistently across the school.
- Provide training and support for staff on the use of physical intervention.
- Ensure recording and sharing of use of physical restraint.
- Carry out and implement risk assessments for children who are identified as likely to need or previously needed physical restraint.
- Communicate the policy to all stakeholders
- Review incidents for patterns and make appropriate recommendations and referrals for additional support where needed.

2. Teaching Staff

- Understand and apply the policy in line with the training received.
- Support each other in implementing the school policies.
- Document incidents where physical intervention is used and report to SLT.

3. Support Staff

- Assist in the implementation of the policy and support the teaching staff as needed.

4. Parents and Guardians

- Be informed about the policy and the circumstances under which physical intervention may be used.
- Support the school in promoting positive behaviour strategies.

5. Children

- Understand the school's behaviour expectations and the implications of their actions.

Related Procedures

In the event of a serious incident, staff should follow the school's emergency procedures.

Conclusion

This Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy is designed to ensure that all staff at Amington Heath Primary School are equipped to manage challenging situations in a safe and respectful manner. By adhering to this policy, we aim to create a positive learning environment for every child

Related Policies

Behaviour Policy
Safeguarding policy
Anti-Bullying Policy
Health and Safety Policy
Staff Code of Conduct
Whistleblowing Policy
Exclusions Policy
SEND
Equality and Diversity Policy
First Aid Policy
Complaints Policy
Mental Health and Wellbeing

Risk Assessment

Individual Risk Assessments
Individual Wellbeing Plans
Manual handling Risk Assessment
Health and Safety Risk Assessment
Risk Assessments for School Trips and Visits
Risk Assessment for Use of Physical Restraint
Environmental Risk Assessment (premises etc)
Risk Assessment for medical Conditions
Individual Health Care Plans



Physical Intervention Record

Child's name	
Date and time	
Location	
Others involved	
Adult/s restraining	
Witnesses	

Necessary?

What was the imminent risk?

Was verbal de-escalation tried?

Did you try to disengage or withdraw?

Were there any other viable options?

In your responses consider proxemics, kinetics and biometrics.

Proportionate?

What and how much force was used? Describe what you did?

Outcome

Parents informed?

Risk assessment completed or reviewed?

Name of person completing this form	
Signed	
Date	

Name of SLT	
Signed	
Date	

SCAN AND UPLOAD THIS FORM TO CPOMS WITH RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTION TAG