

POLICY FOR USE OF PHYSICAL INTERVENTION WITH STUDENTS

The Governors and Staff of Bridlington School fully recognise the importance of safeguarding children and play a full and active part in protecting students from harm.

This policy should be used in conjunction with Bridlington School safeguarding policies and procedures and the Positive Discipline Policy.

PURPOSE

This policy is drawn up under Section 550A of the 1996 EDUCATION ACT to clarify the powers of teachers and other staff who have lawful control or charge of students to **prevent** students committing a crime, causing injury or damage to themselves, other people or property or causing disruption.

Physical intervention should only be used in an emergency and when all other strategies have failed.

BY WHOM

Only members of staff who have successfully undergone CALM Physical Intervention training.

All other members of staff should send for an immediate Call Out if they are unable to manage a student's behaviour.

In extreme circumstances, where it is very likely that someone will be harmed if Physical intervention is not used, staff who have not been CALM trained may use Physical Intervention.

N.B. No member of staff should feel obliged to intervene and should only use physical restraint if they feel confident to do so. They must, however, send for immediate assistance.

WHEN

- Self defence
- Serious risk of injury to the student
- Serious risk of injury to other students/adults
- Serious risk of damage to property, **BUT only if this endangers the safety of the student/others**

HOW

By use of 'reasonable force'. This should be the minimum to achieve the desired result.

In all cases the force used must be **PROPORTIONATE** to the seriousness of the behaviour or the consequences it is intended to prevent.

Staff should **NEVER**:

- hold a student around the neck or collar/hood, or in a way that might restrict breathing;
- slap, punch or kick;
- twist or force limbs against a joint;
- trip;
- hold or pull by the hair, ear;
- hold a student face down on the ground.

N.B. Staff must avoid holding/touching a student in any way that may be considered indecent.

Sometimes a member of staff should **not** intervene in an incident without help, for example when dealing with a physically large student or if the member of staff believes he or she may be at risk of injury. In these circumstances the member of staff should remove other students who may be at risk and summon assistance from colleagues. The member of staff should inform the student that he or she has sent for help.

WHERE

This policy applies when a member of staff is on the school premises or has charge of a student elsewhere e.g. fieldtrip or activity out of school.

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY INTO PRACTICE

Before intervening physically a member of staff should, wherever practicable, tell the student who is misbehaving to stop and what will happen if he or she does not. The teacher or other person should continue to communicate with the student throughout the incident and make it clear that physical contact will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary.

Physical restraint should be used as a last resort; other strategies must be tried first.

Examples of behaviour likely to lead to restraint:

- Physical attack by a student on another student or adult
- Deliberate damage to property which could result in harm to the student/others e.g. throwing objects at/through a window
- Student behaving in a way which places others or themselves at risk e.g. pushing, tripping on a staircase, preventing a student running into a busy road

Physical Intervention is **NOT** a punishment and should not be used as such.

ASSISTANCE should be sought, whenever possible. The student should be told that assistance has been sent for.

Any other students who are at risk should be removed from the vicinity.

The use of Physical Intervention should be avoided in a one-to-one situation – adult witnesses are important.



In all cases where Physical Intervention has been used, the member of staff **MUST** make a written report of the incident, listing witnesses, and make this available to the Headteacher the same day. In addition they must enter the incident in the Physical Intervention Log Book (situated in the General Office).

The Headteacher will contact parents to explain the reason for the use of Physical Intervention.

Date adopted by Governing Body:

Review Date:

Signed:..... (Chair of Governors)