



Touch and the Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy

Date written	August 2024
Date agreed	October 2025
Date of next full review	February 2026
Governing Committee responsible	S&C

Policy and Guidance for staff at Stocks Green Primary School based on guidance from Dynamis (the school's training provider).

1. Introduction

At Stocks Green Primary School we believe that pupils need to be safe, know how to behave, and know that the adults around them are able to manage them safely and confidently. For a very small minority of pupils the use of restrictive physical intervention may be needed, and, on such occasions, acceptable forms of intervention will be used.

The majority of pupils behave well and conform to the expectations of our school. We have responsibility to operate an effective behaviour policy that encompasses preventative strategies for tackling inappropriate behaviour in relation to the whole school, each class, and individual pupils.

All the school staff need to feel able to manage inappropriate risk and behaviour, and to have an understanding of what and how challenging behaviours might be communicated. They need to know what the options open to them are, and they need to be free of undue worries about the risks of legal action against them if they use appropriate physical intervention. Parents need to know that their children are safe with us, and they need to be properly informed if their child is the subject of a Restrictive Physical Intervention, including the nature of the intervention, and the rationale for its use.

2. Definition of 'restrictive physical intervention'

The Law allows for teachers and other persons authorised by the headteacher to use Restrictive Physical Intervention to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following: -

- committing a criminal offence
- injuring themselves or others
- causing damage to property
- engaging in any behaviour that is prejudicial to maintain the good order and discipline at the school

"Restrictive Physical Intervention" is the term used to include interventions where bodily contact using force is used. It refers to any instance in which a teacher or other adult authorised by the headteacher has to, in specific circumstances, use "reasonable force" to control or restrain pupils. There is no legal definition of "reasonable force". However, there are two relevant considerations:

- The use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of an incident make it necessary to intervene.
- The degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent.

The definition of physical force also includes the use of mechanical devices (e.g. splints on the pupil prescribed by medical colleagues to prevent self-injury), forcible seclusion or use of locked doors. It is important for staff to note that, although no physical contact may be made in the latter situations, this is still regarded as a Restrictive Physical Intervention.

It is an offence to lock a person in a room without a court order except in an emergency, for example where the use of a locked room is a temporary measure while seeking assistance. Where there is significant danger in a situation, if possible contain rather than restrain.

3. When the use of restrictive physical interventions may be appropriate in Stocks Green Primary School

Restrictive Physical Interventions will be used when all other strategies have failed, and therefore only as a last resort. However, there are other situations when physical management may be necessary, for example in a situation of clear danger or extreme urgency. Certain pupils may become distressed, agitated, and out of control, and need calming with a brief Restrictive Physical Intervention that is un-resisted after a few seconds.

The safety and well-being of all staff and pupils are important considerations. Under certain conditions this duty must be an over-riding factor.

Who may use restrictive physical intervention in Stocks Green Primary School

The following staff (as well as the teachers employed at the school) are authorised by the Head teacher to have control of pupils, and must be aware of this Policy and its implications.

We take the view that staff should not be expected to put themselves in danger, and that removing pupils and themselves is the right thing to do. We value staff efforts to rectify what can be very difficult situations and in which they exercise their duty of care for the pupils.

Names of authorised staff

Name	Position within school	Date of Training
Peter Hipkiss	Headteacher	February 2024
Joe Endersby	Deputy Heacher	February 2024
Georgina Newton	Assistant Headteacher	February 2024
Chloe Adams	Teacher	February 2024
Claire Hodgson	Teacher	February 2024
Emily Scott	Teacher	February 2024
Jo Wiltshire	Teacher	February 2024
Liz Dargie	Teacher	February 2024
Urszula Saganoska-Kearney	Teacher	February 2024
Emma Hancock	Teaching Assistant	February 2024
Amber Turner	Teaching Assistant	February 2024
Clare Mitchell	Teaching Assistant	February 2024
Sarah Hayward	Teaching Assistant	February 2024
Sarah Tracey	Teaching Assistant	February 2024
Sian Roebuck	Teaching Assistant	February 2024

4. Planning for the use of restrictive physical interventions in Stocks Green Primary School

Staff will use force which is reasonable in the circumstances that is believed to be necessary to restore safety and appropriate behaviour.

The principles relating to the intervention are as follows:

- Restrictive Physical Intervention is an act of care and control, not punishment. It is never used to force compliance with staff instructions.
- Staff will only use it when there are reasonable grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary. The safety of all children at the school and the staff team will be balanced with the best interests of the child.
- Staff will take steps in advance to avoid the need for Restrictive Physical Intervention through dialogue and diversion and at the level of understanding of the child or young person.
- Force will only be used where it is necessary as a last resort and then in a way which is proportionate to the risk in the immediate circumstances.
- Staff will be able to show that the intervention used was in keeping with 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 Restrictive Physical Intervention will be relaxed to allow the pupil to regain self-control.
- A distinction will be maintained between the use of a one-off intervention which is appropriate to a particular circumstance, and the using of it repeatedly as a regular feature of school policy or an Individual Education/Behaviour Plan/Risk Assessment.
- Escalation will be avoided, 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.
- In developing Individual Education/Behaviour Plans/Risk Assessments, consideration will be given to approaches appropriate to each pupil's circumstance.

Procedures are in place, through the pastoral system of the school, for supporting and debriefing pupils and staff after every incident of Restrictive Physical Intervention, as it is essential to safeguard the emotional well-being of all involved at these times.

Acceptable forms of intervention in Stocks Green Primary School

There are occasions when staff will have cause to have physical contact with pupils for a variety of reasons, for example:

- To comfort a pupil in distress (so long as this is appropriate to their age).
- To gently direct a pupil.
- For curricular reasons (for example in PE, Drama etc).
- In an emergency to avert danger to the pupil or pupils.
- In rare circumstances, when Restrictive Physical Intervention is warranted.

In all situations where physical contact between staff and pupils takes place, staff must consider the following:

- The pupil's age and level of understanding.
- The pupil's individual characteristics and history.
- The location where the contact takes place (it should not take place in private without others present).

Physical contact is never made as a punishment. All forms of corporal punishment are prohibited. Physical contact will not be made with the participants neck, breasts, abdomen, genital area, other sensitive body parts, or to put pressure on joints. It will not become a habit between a member of staff and a particular pupil.

Elevated levels of risk are associated with:

- Holding someone who is lying on the floor or forcing them onto the floor.
- Any procedure which restricts breathing or impedes the airways.

6. Developing a positive handling plan in Stocks Green Primary School

If a pupil is identified for whom it is felt that Restrictive Physical Intervention is likely, then a Positive Handling 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.

The plan will include:

- Any medical conditions or known injuries which the child has which could preclude the use of certain physical interventions or inform a team about decisions they make during an incident.
- Involving parents/carers and pupils to ensure they are clear about what specific action the school may take, when and why.
- A risk assessment to ensure staff and others act reasonably, consider the risks, and learn from what happens
- A record of needs to be kept in school of risk reduction options that have been examined and discounted, as well as those used.
- Managing the pupil, strategies to de-escalate a conflict, and stating at which point a Restrictive Physical Intervention is to be used.
- Identifying key staff who know exactly what is expected. It is best that these staff are well known to the pupil
- Ensuring a system to summon additional support is in place.
- Identifying training needs.

Guidance and training for staff

Guidance and training is essential in this area. We need to adopt the best possible practice. In Stocks Green Primary School this is arranged at a number of levels including:

- Awareness for governors, staff and parents.
- Behaviour management for all staff.
- Managing conflict in challenging situations - all staff.
- Specific training on Restrictive Physical Intervention techniques - relevant staff.

8. Complaints

It is intended that by adopting this policy and keeping parents and governors informed we could avoid the need for complaints. All disputes that arise about the use of force by a member of staff will be dealt with according to the school's Complaints Policy.

9. Physical Intervention: Procedures for Planned Interventions

1. The person responsible for authorising staff to use restrictive physical intervention as part of a structured and planned intervention within this school is the Headteacher.
2. The person responsible for ensuring that all planned use of restrictive physical intervention is risk assessed is the school's SENCo.
3. Copies of all risk assessments are held by the SENCo and are reviewed after every use of force and termly.
4. As of September 2024, the people who are authorised to use reasonable force in planned restrictive physical interventions are listed in the table in section 3. No other person should engage in a planned intervention.
5. Only those trained in appropriate techniques within the last twenty four months may be authorised. The person responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided, including regular updates, is the Headteacher.
6. Training records are held in the school office.
7. Those not involved in risk assessment but whose roles include the supervision of children may use reasonable force in an emergency unplanned intervention where it is necessary to prevent a serious injury from occurring.
8. Every use of restrictive physical intervention is to be reported the same day to the Headteacher or the deputy in charge if the Headteacher is off- site. The Headteacher or deputy will ensure that a parent of the child who has had force used against them is notified that day.
9. In addition, the details of each use of physical intervention must be recorded on the Pupil Incident Report Form that is held by the Headteacher. The person leading the planned or unplanned intervention must complete this form. The head teacher will review every use of physical intervention. A summary of physical interventions will be included in the Headteacher's report to governors.

Appendix A: Assessing and Managing Risk Form

Appendix B: Physical Intervention Record Form