

Oakwood Infant and Nursery School



Physical Intervention Policy (OAK068/03/2023)

School Mission Statement

At Oakwood Infant and Nursery School we provide a safe, healthy, happy and creative learning environment for everyone, through high expectations and mutual respect.

We are all stars watch us shine.

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Physical Intervention Policy

Objectives

- To maintain the safety of pupils and staff
- To prevent serious breaches of school discipline
- To prevent serious damage to property

Minimising the need to use physical intervention

- We aim to create a calm environment that minimises the risk of incidents that might require the use of physical intervention
- We do all we can to de-escalate incidents if they do arise
- We only use physical intervention when the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved in not using physical intervention
- Risk assessments, individual behaviour plans and positive handling plans are drawn up for individual pupils, as necessary

Staff authorised to use physical intervention

- All members of staff who supervise pupils have the statutory power to use physical intervention

Deciding whether to use physical intervention

Staff should only use physical intervention when:

- the potential consequences of not intervening are sufficiently serious to justify considering use of physical intervention
- the chances of achieving the desired result by other means are low; and
- the risk associated with not using physical intervention outweighs those of using physical intervention

Staff will be kept informed about and advised how to deal with pupils who present particular risks to themselves or others (as a result of SEN and/or disabilities and/or other personal circumstances.) This guidance will be provided by the Head teacher and/or SENCo.

Using physical intervention

It is vitally important that only reasonable physical intervention necessary to achieve the desired result is used.

It is desirable, where practicable:

- to give a clear oral warning to the pupil that physical intervention may have to be used

- that any form of restraint that is likely to injure a pupil (particularly anything that could constrict breathing) is only used in extreme emergencies and where there is no viable alternative
- that physical intervention is not used unless or until another responsible adult is present to support, observe and call for assistance, if necessary

The types of physical intervention used could include:

- passive physical contact resulting from standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path
- active physical contact such as:
 1. leading a pupil by the hand or arm
 2. ushering a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back
 3. in more extreme circumstances, using appropriate restrictive holds, which may require specific expertise or training

Staff training

All staff who supervise pupils will be offered appropriate training. Training will include ways of avoiding or defusing situations in which physical intervention might become necessary as well as methods of physical intervention.

Recording incidents

Every significant incident in which physical intervention has been used will be recorded in writing

An incident is significant if a positive response is given to any of the following questions:

- Did the incident cause injury or distress to a pupil or member of staff?
- Even though there was no apparent injury or distress, was the incident sufficiently serious in its own right to require a written record? e.g. use of a restrictive hold
- Is a written record needed to be able to justify the use of physical intervention? This is particularly relevant where the judgement was very finely balanced
- Is a record needed to help identify and analyse patterns of pupil behaviour or staff training needs?
- Were other agencies involved?

An incident record will form part of a pupil's educational record.

Reporting incidents

Recordable incidents will be reported to parents/carers by the Headteacher, initially orally, but confirmed in writing. The parents/carers will also be given a copy of this policy.

Parents/carers will be told:

- When and where the incident took place
- Which members of staff were directly involved (anonymised where necessary)
- Why they decided that physical intervention had to be used
- What physical intervention was used
- Whether there were any injuries
- What follow-up action was taken

Relevant injuries to staff or pupils will be reported to the Health and Safety Executive's Incident Contact Centre

All recordable incidents will be reported by the Headteacher to the Governors.

Post-incident support

- Where injury has occurred, first aid will be provided immediately
- Where injuries go beyond first aid, medical help will be accessed immediately
- Where required, staff and pupils will be given emotional support

Support for staff and pupils will continue for as long as necessary in respect of:

- Physical consequences
- Emotional stress or loss of confidence
- Opportunities to analyse, reflect and learn from the incident

Complaints and allegations

Parents and pupils have a right to complain about actions taken by school staff, including the use of physical intervention.

If a specific allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff then the school will follow the guidance set out in *Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (Appendix A)*

Other complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the school's usual complaints procedure

Monitoring and review

The named governor for Child Protection will monitor the impact of this policy.

Linked Policies

Anti-bullying
 Child Protection
 Disability Equality
 Equal Opportunities
 Health and Safety
 Positive Behaviour Management

