

Whole School Policy

Physical Intervention Policy

Policy	Physical Intervention Policy		
Approval Date	October 2022	Next Review	October 2024
Review Cycle	24 months		
Scope	Whole Group	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whole School <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	International Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Primary <input type="checkbox"/>
	International Secondary	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Secondary <input type="checkbox"/>
Ownership	DSL	Approved by	Health & Safety Committee

Physical Intervention Policy

Physical intervention in the form of positive handling should be limited to emergency situations and used only in the last resort.

It enables teachers and other members of staff in the school, authorised by the Head of School or Campus Principal, to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances, to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing an offence
- Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself)
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among its pupils, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

(Examples of possible situations are given in Appendix 1)

Definition of positive handling at Tenby Schools Setia Eco Park

Positive handling is the positive application of force with the intention of protecting the child from harming themselves or others or seriously damaging property.

General policy aims

Staff at Tenby Schools Setia Eco Park recognises that the use of reasonable force is only used as a last resort following a range of strategies available to secure pupil safety / well-being and also to maintain good order and discipline. Our policy on positive handling should therefore be read in conjunction with our Positive Behaviour Philosophy, Positive Behaviour School Policies and our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy.

Specific aims of the positive handling policy

- To protect every person in the school community from harm;
- To protect all pupils against any form of physical intervention that is unnecessary, inappropriate, excessive or harmful;
- To provide adequate information and training for staff so that they are clear as to what constitutes appropriate behaviour and to deal effectively with violent or potentially violent situations.

Why use positive handling?

Positive handling should avert danger by preventing or deflecting a child's action or perhaps by removing a physical object, which could be used to harm him / herself or others. It is only likely to be needed if a child appears to be unable to exercise self-control of emotions and behaviour.

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which positive handling would be necessary or appropriate and staff will have to exercise their own judgement in situations which arise

within the above categories. Staff should always act within the School's policy on behaviour and discipline, particularly in dealing with disruptive behaviour.

Staff should be aware that when they are in charge of children during the school day, or during other supervised activities, they are acting in loco parentis and should, therefore, take reasonable action to ensure pupils' safety and well-being.

Failure to physically restrain a pupil who is subsequently injured or injures another, could, in certain circumstances, lead to an accusation of negligence. At the same time staff are not expected to place themselves in situations where they are likely to suffer injury as a result of their intervention.

Alternative strategies

There are some situations in which the need for positive handling is immediate and where there are no equally effective alternatives (e.g. is a pupil about to run across a road). However, in many circumstances there are alternatives e.g. use of assertiveness skills such as:

- the broken record in which an instruction is repeated until the pupil complies
- use of a distracter, such as a loud whistle, to interrupt the behaviour (such as a fight) long enough for other methods of verbal control to be effective
- withdrawal of attention (audience) e.g. if an action such as damage to property is threatened
- other techniques designed to defuse the situation, such as the avoidance of confrontation, or use of humour (in these cases the incident can be dealt with later when emotions are no longer running high)
- the employment of other sanctions consistent with the School's policy on behaviour.

Use of positive handling

Positive handling should be applied as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allowing the pupil to regain self-control. It should never take a form which could be seen as a punishment.

Staff are only authorised to use reasonable force in applying positive handling. There is no absolute definition of this, as what constitutes reasonable force depends upon the particular situation and the pupil to whom it is being applied. However, as a general rule, only the force necessary to stop or prevent poor behaviour should be used, in accordance with the guidelines below.

There are some forms of physical intervention, which may involve minimal physical contact, such as blocking a pupil's path or the staff member physically interposing him or herself between the pupil and another pupil or object. However, in some circumstances, direct physical contact may be necessary. In all circumstances other methods should be used if appropriate and effective positive handling should be a last resort.

When positive handling becomes necessary: **DO**

- Tell the pupil what you are doing and why
- Use the minimum force necessary
- Involve another member of staff if possible
- Tell the pupil what s/he must do for you to remove the positive handling (this may need frequent repetition)
- Use simple and clear language
- Hold limbs above a major joint if possible e.g. above the elbow
- Relax your positive handling in response to the pupil's compliance

DON'T

- Act in temper (involve another staff member if you fear loss of control)
- Involve yourself in a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil
- Attempt to reason with the pupil
- Involve other pupils in the positive handling
- Touch or hold the pupil in sexual areas
- Twist or force limbs back against a joint
- Bend fingers or pull hair
- Hold the pupil in a way which will restrict blood flow or breathing e.g. around the neck
- Slap, punch, kick or trip up the pupil

Actions after an incident

Positive handling often occurs in response to highly charged emotional situations and there is a clear need for debriefing after the incident, both for the staff involved and the pupil. The Head of School should be informed of any incident as soon as possible and will take responsibility for making arrangements for debriefing once the situation has stabilised. An appropriate member of the teaching staff should always be involved in debriefing the pupil involved and any victims of the incident should be offered support, and their parents informed.

If the behaviour is part of an ongoing pattern it may be necessary to address the situation through the development of a behavioural IEP, which may include an anger management programme, or other strategies agreed by the SENDCO.

It is also helpful to consider the circumstances precipitating the incident to explore ways in which future incidents can be avoided.

All incidents should be recorded immediately by the member/members of staff involved in the incident. All sections of this report should be completed so that in the event of any future complaint a full record is available. The Head of School or another qualified and appropriate member of staff at the direction of the Head of School (e.g. Head of Year/Deputy Head) will contact parents as soon as possible after an incident, normally on the same day, to inform them of the actions that were taken and why, and to provide them

with an opportunity to discuss it. Reports should be handed to the Head of School and will be filed in the Head of School's office. These will be reported to ISP Regional Manager as part of regular reporting.

Risk Assessments

If we become aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a disruptive way that may require the use of reasonable force, we will plan how to respond if the situation arises. Such planning will address:

- Management of the pupil (e.g. reactive strategies to de-escalate a conflict, holds to be used if necessary)
- Involvement of parents to ensure that they are clear about the specific action the school might need to take
- Briefing of staff to ensure they know exactly what action they should be taking (this may identify a need for training or guidance)
- Identification of additional support that can be summoned if appropriate

Complaints and Allegations

A clear behaviour policy and a clear positive handling policy, adhered to by all staff and shared with parents, should help to avoid complaints from parents. Allegations that a member of staff has used force inappropriately should be dealt with in accordance with agreed policy and procedure for handling allegations against staff. The degree to which the school's policies and procedures have been followed, including that staff are authorised to use reasonable force in certain specified circumstances, will be at the core of any investigation.

Appendix 1 When might it be appropriate to use reasonable force?

Examples of situations that may require positive handling are when:

- a pupil attacks a member of staff, or another pupil
- pupils fighting
- a pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials, substances or objects
- a pupil is running in a corridor or on a stairway in a way in which he/she might have or cause an accident likely to injure her/himself or others
- a pupil absconding from a class or trying to leave school (NB this will only apply if a pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or at school)
- a pupil persistently refuses to obey an order to leave an area which would cause physical danger.

Record of Physical Intervention

Name of Child:	
Date of Incident:	
Where did the incident happen?	
Names of staff or pupils who witnessed:	
Why was force needed?	
How did the incident begin and progress? (who said what? Who did what?)	
What was done to calm things down?	
What degree of force was used? (What kind of hold? And for how long?)	
Pupils response:	
Details of injury or damage:	
Signed:	Date:
Head of School:	Date: