



# Physical Intervention Policy



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& NOTTINGHAM  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

<b>Policy:</b>	Physical Intervention policy
<b>Approved by:</b>	Governing Body of St Marys Edwinstowe
<b>Date:</b>	November 2024
<b>Review cycle:</b>	Annually – will next be reviewed in October/November 2025

VERSION CONTROL			
VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	CHANGES
2023-24	2023-24	Anne Cummings	New Policy
2024-25		Jennie Bailey	Updated objectives Updated details related to Reasonable Force Refined complaints section Updated changes in training accessed for staff Updated Appendix for forms to complete

## Objectives

At St Mary's Church of England primary, we believe that every child is a precious gift from God where each child is special and unique. Children are at the heart of every decision we make here at St Mary's and it is our mission for all our children to love, learn and flourish.

We take the safety of our pupils and staff very seriously. We believe that all pupils and staff have the right to be and feel safe whilst at school or on a school-run activity.

## Minimising the Need to Use Reasonable Force

As a school, we are firmly committed to creating a calm and safe environment, which minimises the risk of incidents arising that might require the use of reasonable force.

We will only use force as a last resort and strongly believe in de-escalating any incidents as they arise to prevent them from reaching a crisis point. Staff will be skilled in promoting and rewarding positive behaviour and will utilise various appropriate techniques in the management of a class environment.

Staff will only use reasonable force when the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved by not using force.

At St Mary's Church of England Primary we fully adopt the DFE guidance for the use of reasonable force first published July 2013.

### Who can use reasonable force?

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force. This power applies to any member of staff at the school. It can also apply to people whom the

headteacher has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.

There are always at least 3 members of staff who have completed the 'Understanding Behaviour' training from Notts CC. These are named on any individual behaviour plans that a child may have.

### **When can reasonable force be used?**

Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder. In a school, force is used for two main purposes – to control pupils or to restrain them. The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

The following list is not exhaustive but provides some examples of situations where reasonable force can and cannot be used:

#### **Schools can**

- remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- prevent 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;
- prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and
- restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

#### **Schools cannot:**

- use force as a punishment – it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

### **Deciding Whether to Use Reasonable Force**

Under English law, members of staff are empowered to use reasonable force to prevent a pupil from or stop them continuing:

- committing any offence;
- causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself); 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.

All members of staff will make decisions about when, how and why to use reasonable force. To help staff in making decisions about using reasonable force the following considerations may be useful:

- whether the consequences of not intervening would have seriously endangered the wellbeing of a person;
- whether the consequences of not intervening would have caused serious and significant damage to property;

- whether the chance of achieving the desired outcome in a non-physical way was low;
- The age, size, gender, developmental maturity of the persons involved.

Staff are also expected to remember that physical intervention is only one option and for behaviours involving extreme levels of risk, it may be more appropriate to gain support from other agencies, including the police.

Staff will be kept informed and have a duty to inform others about the plans around specific pupils who can present risks to themselves and others. This may include information about SEN, personal circumstance and temporary upset.

### **Staff training**

Staff at St Mary's C of E Primary School, who have been identified as needing training in this area, will access 'Understanding Behaviour level 1 and 2' training through the County Council co-ordinator who deliver nationally accredited courses. This is updated annually.

These courses provide participants with an insight into recent legislation and guidance that could impact on policy and practice, as well as a range of physical and non-physical strategies to help manage the risks posed by children and young people's behaviour.

Nottinghamshire County Council has adopted the 'Understanding Behaviour' training model, and as such is an 'Approved Training Centre' for Positive **Options Ltd**, which is a BILD (British Institute of Learning Disability) accredited training programme.

Staff who receive this training will be accredited to use the physical elements of 'Understanding Behaviour' for a defined period as stated on their certificate.

### **Recording and Reporting Incidents**

The governing body will ensure that a procedure is in place, and is followed by staff, for recording and reporting, *significant* incidents where a member of staff has used force on a pupil. The record must be made as soon as practicable after the incident.

While ultimately only a court of law could decide what is 'significant' in a particular case, in deciding whether an incident must be reported, staff should take into account:

- an incident where unreasonable use of force is used on a pupil would always be a significant incident;
- any incident where substantial force has been used (e.g. physically pushing a pupil out of a room) would be significant;
- the use of a restraint technique is significant;
- An incident where a child was very distressed (though clearly not over reacting) would be significant.

In determining whether incidents are significant, schools should consider:

- the pupil's behaviour and the level of risk presented at the time;
- the degree of force used and whether it was proportionate in relation to the behaviour;

- The effect on the pupil or member of staff.

Staff should also bear in mind the age of the child, any special education need or disability or other social factors, which might be relevant.

Sometimes an incident might not be considered significant in itself, but forms part of a pattern of repeated behaviour. In this case, although there is no legal requirement to record such incidents, schools are advised to let parents know about them.

Records are important in providing evidence of defensible decision-making in case of a subsequent complaint or investigation. Staff may find it helpful to seek the advice of a senior colleague or a representative of their trade union when compiling a report.

St Mary's C of E Primary primary will use the form (Appendix A) to detail clearly any significant incident has occurred involving physical intervention.

We also use F45-5 form which enables members of staff to report, using a standardised format, any significant incident where force has been used, or any incident where violence to staff has occurred or been threatened. Staff can access these via the school office.

The school will also refer to its Safeguarding Policy and other policies as required.

### **Post-incident support**

Following the use of physical intervention staff and pupils will be supported, the immediate physical needs of all parties will be met and staff will ensure that positive relationships are maintained.

### **Complaints and allegations**

Following any incident the complaints policy can be followed for further discussion

### **Monitoring and review**

This policy will be monitored regularly and reviewed by the governing body at least annually or as required. This policy will be reviewed annually.

The Head Teacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy and AP1 governors are responsible for monitoring.

Appendix A – Physical Intervention Record – ST MARYS

Pupil Name: DoB: Class: SEN:
Date/time/location of incident:
Name of staff involved in restraint:
What type of hold was used:
Name of witness/es:
Other pupils involved:
Description of incident:
Any injury or marks Medical attention sought
Have there been any further actions?
What has been put in place to reduce the likelihood of any reoccurrence?

How were the parents informed?

Date and time:

Signature:

Name of member of staff completing this form and role in the incident

Signature:

Senior Leader informed, date and time

Signature: