



## **Physical Intervention Policy**

### **Bennerley Fields School**

#### **Rationale**

At Bennerley Fields School we aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly environment for all our pupils to allow them to learn effectively. We take the safety of our pupils and staff very seriously, and believe everyone has the right to be and feel safe when at school or on a school-run activity. This policy provides a framework for staff to work with pupils with challenging behaviour in an appropriate and reasonable way to ensure the pupil's own safety, the safety of the staff working with them and other pupils around them.

#### **Aims**

The Physical Intervention Policy contributes to the whole school Behaviour (Positive Engagement) Policy and aims to:

- Provide a safe learning environment.
- Provide a framework in which all staff that come into contact with pupils are clear about their roles and responsibilities within the context of physical intervention.
- Support the school's Child Protection, Safeguarding and Behaviour policies.

#### **The Law**

The Education and Inspection Act (2006) introduced a statutory right for school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing an offence or engaging in conduct that could be an offence.
- Causing injury to themselves or others.
- Damaging property.
- Prejudicing good order and discipline at the school.

The power applies where the pupil is on school premises or any other place where they are in the lawful control or charge of the school staff member. This means that the power extends to school trips. There is no statutory definition of 'reasonable force'; it will always depend on the circumstances of the individual cases. Any physical intervention should be justified in the context in which it takes place and proportionate to the consequences it is intended to prevent. The degree of force should be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

The physical intervention must;

- Not involve hitting the pupil
- Not involve “punitive” acts such as deliberately inflicting pain
- Not restrict the pupil’s breathing
- Avoid the genital area, buttocks or breasts of the pupil
- Avoid the adult putting weight upon the pupil in any way
- Avoid holding or pulling on joints.

During any incident of physical intervention adults must, seek to;

- Minimise the need for, or length of, any physical intervention
- Lower the pupil’s level of anger or distress during the physical intervention by continually offering verbal re-assurance and avoid fear of injury in the pupil
- Cause the minimum restriction of movement of limbs consistent with the level of risk to safety and welfare
- Take account of the potential for accidental injury during the physical intervention by using a method appropriate for the environment in which it is taking place.
- Work together as a team, with one member taking the lead,
- Exclude any other pupil from assisting with the physical intervention;

### **Minimising The Need To Use Reasonable Force**

In Bennerley Fields School, staff have a responsibility to follow this policy and to seek alternative strategies where possible to prevent the need for physical intervention.

De-escalation strategies include:

- Visual and verbal support
- Offering choices
- Using diversion and diffusion
- Using negotiation
- Re-assurance
- Tactical ignoring

### **Team Teach**

All teaching staff, teaching assistants and support staff will receive Team Teach (Level 2) training. Staff undergo a two day course led by qualified trainers on a bi-annual basis. A Team Teach intermediate trainer is available in school to support staff to maintain their understanding of the Team teach principles.

Physical interventions will only be used as a last resort and never as a matter of course. They are emergency procedures used only when there seems to be a real possibility that significant harm will occur if the intervention is withheld. Interventions will be used within the Team Teach methodology, using the least restrictive methods of holding and releasing as soon as it is reasonably practicable. Health issues are

the greatest concern both generally and with concern to the medical considerations of individuals. Before any physical intervention is used staff will consider the following:

- Is it safe to intervene?
- Is it necessary to intervene?
- Would it be effective to intervene?

Any staff who feel they cannot support pupils in this way due to their own health / medical conditions, must inform SLT of this when appointed, or when diagnosed with a new condition that prevents this level of support being safe. Staff will not be expected to engage in physical intervention if they are not able to do so safely.

### **Reporting And Recording Incidents**

Record keeping is vital to:

- Inform future planning
- Provide information for other agencies
- Conform with legislation
- Minimise future incidents

Any incident that has needed physical intervention must be recorded on IRIS Adapt (<https://portal.irisadapt.com>), the online recording and monitoring system Bennerley Fields use for behaviour.

Incidents which require physical intervention must include:

- Staff involved
- Time the intervention happened
- Details about what intervention was needed

Serious incidents should also be reported to parents and the SLT immediately. Staff should use their professional judgement about when to report to parents. If staff are unsure whether to report to parents, they should seek the guidance of the SLT.

Any new behaviour that has resulted in physical intervention, must be included into a pupil's Behaviour Risk Matrix by the class teacher. If a pupil does not have a Positive Behaviour Support Plan (PBSP) in place, it is a class teacher's responsibility to raise this new behaviour with SLT and to work with the Behaviour Lead to implement a PBSP. Any known behaviours that are requiring regular or increased use of physical intervention must be raised as a concern by a class teacher to SLT. SLT will provide support in these cases and if necessary refer to other professionals for additional support e.g. CAMHS, Educational Psychologists, Occupational therapists.

Monitoring of incidents will take place on a regular basis by the SLT. Staff and pupils will always have the opportunity to debrief and this (at least half termly) and be used to review or introduce a PBSP.

### **Role of Governors**

The SLT will report regularly to Governors through the Headteacher's report about the use of physical intervention, including analysis of trends and case study examples of reduction planning. Governors will seek reassurance that every effort has been made to avoid or minimise the use of incidents that have required physical intervention.

### **Post-Incident Support**

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

### **Complaints and Allegations**

The right to complain is considered to be very important at Bennerley Fields School. Every complaint is a matter of concern to the school and will be investigated with due urgency and thoroughness. We will ensure that mechanisms are in place for pupils, parents, carers and staff to voice their opinions, comments or concerns.

### **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SLT.



## Physical Intervention Policy

| Version             | Reviewed in School | Approved by GB/SLT/HT/IG |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1-Date Approved     | -                  | -                        |
| 1.2                 | -                  | -                        |
| 1.3                 | -                  | -                        |
| 1.4                 | -                  | -                        |
| 1.5                 | 09.07.21           | 22.09.2021               |
| 2                   | 7.11.22            | 21.11.22 – SLT           |
| 2.1                 | 23.11.23           | 22.01.24-SLT             |
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| Review Requirement: | 1 Year             |                          |
| Approval Level:     | SLT                |                          |