

<b>Reviewer</b> Governing Body	<b>BROOKFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL</b> <b><u>Restrictive Physical Intervention</u></b> <b><u>Policy</u></b>	<b>Review date</b> December 2018
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### **School Values and Principles**

The school Behaviour Management Policy outlines how staff at Brookfield Junior School create and maintain good order and relationships through positive approaches. These approaches are successful for the vast majority of the time. This policy on the use of restrictive physical interventions supplements the main behaviour policy. Both should be read in conjunction with the school SEND Policy, the Health and Safety Policy and the Safeguarding Policy.

### **Purpose of this Policy**

This policy aims to give all members of the school community clear guidance so that any physical intervention that they undertake is carried out in a way that supports the values and principles described above. In particular, it aims to describe the circumstances in which restrictive physical intervention is an appropriate response and how staff at school will fulfil their responsibilities in those circumstances.

The Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring that staff and parents are aware of the policy and will ensure that any necessary training takes place so that staff know their responsibilities.

### **Physical Touch**

The staff of Brookfield Junior School believe that physical touch is an essential part of human relationships. In our school, adults may well use touch to prompt, to give reassurance or to provide support in PE.

To use touch to support successfully, staff will adhere to the following principles. It must:

- Be non-abusive, with no intention to cause pain or injury.
- Be in the best interests of the child and others.
- Have a clear educational purpose.
- Take account of gender issues.

At our school the Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that relevant staff are aware of any pupil who finds physical touch unwelcome. Such sensitivity may arise from the pupil's cultural background, personal history, age etc.

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**What do we mean by “physical interventions”?**

It is helpful to distinguish between:-

Definition	Example	
Non-restrictive physical interventions	Either where the child’s movement is not restricted or where the child is held supportively but such that they will be released immediately should they so wish.	Guiding a person from A to B. Removal of a cause of distress
Restrictive physical interventions	Prevent, impede or restrict movement or mobility. Restraint. To use force to direct.	Holding a pupil. Blocking a person’s path. Inter-positioning.

..... and between:-

Emergency interventions	Occur in response to unforeseen events
Planned interventions	In which staff employ, where necessary, pre-arranged strategies and methods which are based on a risk assessment and recorded in an individual plan for the management of the pupil.

**When is restrictive physical intervention permissible at Brookfield Junior School?**

Restrictive physical intervention is rarely used at Brookfield Junior School. However, it will be necessary when its aim is to prevent a pupil injuring themselves or others, or to prevent them damaging property.

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### **Risk Assessment**

The use of restrictive physical intervention will be the outcome of a professional judgement made by staff on the basis of this school policy. It is avoided whenever possible and will not be used for staff convenience.

**Restrictive physical intervention will only be considered if other behaviour management options have proved ineffective or are judged to be inappropriate or in an emergency situation.** Before deciding to intervene in this way staff will weigh up whether the risk of not intervening is greater than the risk of intervening. Any actions will be carried out with the child's best interests at heart. Physical intervention will never be used to punish a pupil or cause pain, injury or humiliation.

Staff are not expected to intervene physically against their better judgement nor are they expected to place themselves, at unreasonable risk. In such circumstances, they must take steps to minimise risks.

### **Who may use physical interventions?**

At Brookfield Junior School all teachers are authorised. In addition, all support staff are also authorised. The Headteacher will ensure that the staff are aware and understand what is involved.

### **Supply staff will not be authorised to use restrictive physical interventions.**

In the event of circumstances arising where physical intervention appears to be the appropriate response, either the PALL/HLTA will deal with the situation according to the school's behaviour management policy, or support will be sought from a member of the teaching staff or Headteacher.

### **Parents and volunteers are not given authorisation.**

Staff from the local education authority may have their own policies about the care and control of pupils but, whilst on the premises, they will be expected to be aware of, and operate within, the policy of this school. This means that visiting staff will need to ask the Headteacher for authorisation.

### **How staff at Brookfield Junior School might intervene.**

When a restrictive physical intervention is justified staff will use "reasonable force". This is the degree of force "warranted by the situation". It will "be proportionate to the circumstances of the incident and the consequences it is

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intended to prevent.” Any force used will always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result and for the shortest amount of time.

Staff will:

- Use the minimum amount of force for the minimum amount of time.
- Avoid causing pain or injury; avoid holding or putting pressure on joints.
- In general hold long bones.
- Never hold a pupil face down on the ground or in any position that might increase the risk of suffocation.

During the incident the member of staff involved will tell the pupil that their behaviour may be leading to restraint. This will not be used as a threat or said in a way that could inflame the situation. Staff will not act out of anger or frustration. They will try to adopt a calm, measured approach and maintain communication with the pupil at all times.

Whether formally authorised or not, all staff have the right to use reasonable force to defend themselves and others from attack and to prevent immediate risk or injury to themselves or others.

- Restrictive physical intervention should be used very rarely and should be avoided whenever possible.
- Restrictive physical intervention is allowed to prevent a pupil injuring themselves or others, or to prevent them from damaging property.
- It must be justifiable as “being in the best interests of the child.”
- It covers a range of actions that prevent, impede or restrict movement or mobility.
- It can be planned.

## **KEY POINTS FOR TEACHERS**

### **Physical Touch**

Physical touch is an essential part of human relationships. In school, adults should feel able to use touch for professionally appropriate reasons. However any touch must:

- Be non-abusive with no appearance of indecency or intention to cause pain or injury.
- Be in the best interests of the child and others.
- Have a clear educational purpose.
- Take account of gender issues.

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You **must make yourself** aware of any pupil who might find physical touch unwelcome. Such sensitivity may arise from the pupil's cultural background, personal history, age etc.

### **The school policy**

On any day, you may find yourself in a situation where you have to make a snap judgement about whether to make a physical intervention or not. So it is very important that you are familiar with the school's policy in its use. **Ask for clarification and more advice if you feel unsure.**

### **Who can use restrictive physical interventions?**

Whether they are formally authorised or not, all staff have the right to use reasonable force to defend themselves and others from an attack and to prevent immediate risk of injury to themselves or others.

### **What is restrictive physical intervention?**

The term restrictive physical intervention covers a wide range of actions that prevent, impede or restrict movement or mobility or use force to direct.

### **In what circumstances can a restrictive physical intervention be used?**

The use of restrictive physical intervention should be very rare. It should be avoided whenever possible and must not be used for staff convenience. It must be justifiable on "being in the child's best interests".

Restrictive physical intervention is allowed and most obviously justified when its aim is to prevent a pupil injuring themselves or others, or to prevent them damaging property.

It is possible that limited restraint will be appropriate and acceptable. However, it is essential that such action has the child's best interests at heart and that it is not used simply for convenience.

### **Making a judgement about whether or not to intervene physically.**

**Restrictive physical intervention should only be considered if other behaviour management options have proved ineffective or are judged inappropriate.** Before deciding to intervene, it should be considered whether the risk of not intervening is greater than the risk of intervening. Any intervention should be carried out with the child's best interests at heart. Physical contact must not be used to punish a pupil or cause pain, injury or humiliation.

### **Making a plan**

If you are concerned that a situation may arise with a pupil that requires a restrictive physical intervention you should carry out a formal risk assessment following the school's guidelines. If appropriate, an individual management plan should then be drawn up for that pupil. This plan should aim to reduce the

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likelihood of such a situation arising as well as how to deal with it if it does. Such a plan should be discussed with parents. If it involves the use of a restrictive physical intervention, medical colleagues should be consulted. You should receive any necessary guidance or training before you implement such a plan.

### **What you should do in a restrictive physical intervention**

When a restrictive physical intervention is justified you can use “reasonable force”. This is the degree of force “warranted by the situation.” It should “be proportionate to the circumstances of the incident and the consequences it is intended to prevent.” Any force used should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result and the shortest amount of time.

If restrictive physical intervention is used, you should:

- Use the minimum amount of force for the minimum amount of time.
- Avoid causing pain or injury.
- Avoid holding or putting pressure on joints
- Hold long bones.
- Never hold a pupil face down on the ground or in any position that might increase the risk of suffocation.

During an incident you must caution the pupil that their behaviour may be leading to restraint but this should not be used as a threat or said in a way that would inflame the situation. You must not act out of anger or frustration. It is important to adopt a calm, measured approach and maintain communication with the pupil at all times.

You should be aware of how to summon assistance in an emergency.

### **After an incident**

All incidents of restrictive physical intervention should be reported and recorded as soon as possible; Intervention Report sheets are available from the staffroom and should be passed to the SENCo once completed. Witnesses should make statements as well as the direct participants. Parents should be informed.

After an incident you should seek debriefing support. Similarly the pupil involved should be given such support.

**At Brookfield Junior School it is unacceptable** for a child to be pushed or pulled as this may cause additional danger to the child.

In an emergency, staff must summon assistance by sending two responsible children to a neighbouring class or the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

### **The place of restrictive physical intervention with broader behavioural planning**

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If through the school's special needs assessment procedures it is determined that a restrictive physical intervention is likely to be appropriate to help a pupil make progress, a risk assessment will be carried out.

If appropriate, an individual management plan will then be drawn up for that pupil. This plan will aim to reduce the likelihood of the need for restrictive physical intervention as well as describing how such intervention will be carried out. This plan will be discussed with parents. When it involves the use of a restrictive physical intervention, medical colleagues will be consulted.

Before the plan is implemented any necessary training or guidance will be provided for the staff involved. The Headteacher/CPD Leader will be responsible for establishing staff needs and for organising necessary training.

### **What to do after the use of physical intervention**

After the use of an **unplanned restrictive physical intervention**, the following steps will be taken:-

- Details of the incident will be recorded by all adults involved immediately on the form provided (available in the staffroom).
- Recording will be completed within 12 hours whenever possible.
- Any injuries suffered by those involved will be recorded.
- The Headteacher will check that there is no cause for concern regarding the actions of the adults involved. If it is felt that an action has "caused or put a child at risk of significant harm" the Headteacher will follow the school's child protection procedures and also inform parents.
- Parents will be informed by the Headteacher or Deputy Head on the day of the incident. If this is initially done by phone, it will be followed up in writing. Parents will be offered the opportunity to discuss any concerns that they may have regarding an incident.
- Support will be available for adults and pupils who have been involved in any incident involving restrictive physical interventions. This will be provided by the Headteacher.

The Headteacher will use the records kept to analyse patterns of behaviour and so decide whether responses are being effective. The Headteacher will report on this information to the Governing Body.

### **Complaints Procedure**

Any complaints will first be considered in the light of the school's child protection procedures. If child protection procedures are not appropriate, the school's complaint's procedures will be followed.

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