



Gunthorpe Primary School

Positive Handling and Use of Reasonable Force Policy

Approved via GovernorHub

Approved date	7 th October 2024
Review date	October 2025



Positive Handling and Use of Reasonable Force

Aims

Our policy aims to give all members of the school community clear guidance so that any physical handling can be managed in a positive way. Gunthorpe Primary School also recognises that in certain circumstances restrictive physical intervention may be needed. The guidance outlines how this can be undertaken while supporting the values and principles of the school.

Legislation and Guidance

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a student from doing or continuing to do any of the following:

- Committing any offence
- Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person including the pupil themselves.
- Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school.

Physical touch

Staff at Gunthorpe Primary School believe that physical touch is an essential part of human relationships. In our school adults may use appropriate touch or physical support to prompt, to give reassurance or to provide practical physical support such as in P.E. lessons. To use touch or physical 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 e.g. to access the curriculum or to improve social relationships
- Take account of gender issues
- Not be used for convenience

Staff will use touch and physical support with an awareness of the sensitivities associated with any form of physical contact with children.

What is physical intervention?

A physical intervention is where a child's mobility or movements are prevented, impeded or restricted or force is used to direct a movement, following a dynamic risk assessment of the situation. Staff in school have been trained in the STEPS/Therapeutic Thinking philosophy and may use a physical guide to ensure the safety of an individual or whole class. Staff are not expected to intervene against their better judgement or to place themselves at unreasonable risk. In such

circumstances they must take steps to minimise the risks. For example, they may remove other children and call for assistance. Supply staff, parents and volunteers are not authorised to use restrictive intervention.

How staff might intervene

When a restrictive physical intervention is justified, staff will use 'reasonable force' that is warranted by the situation. Any force used will always be the minimum needed for the shortest amount of time possible. Staff will try to adopt a calm, measured approach and maintain communication with the child throughout. Key staff are to be 'Team Teach' trained in safe positive physical handling techniques.

After a physical intervention has been used

After the use of a restrictive intervention the following steps will be taken:

- Details of the incident will be recorded by all adults immediately
- All records will be made within 12 hours of the incident
- Staff will be offered the opportunity to seek the support of SLT
- Any injuries sustained must be recorded following normal school procedures
- The Headteacher will check the details and the appropriateness of the physical intervention
- Parents and carers will be informed and have the opportunity to discuss the incident
- Support and debriefing will be available to staff and pupils

Risk Assessments

All incidents and records will be monitored and individual risk management plans and assessments will be put in place and reviewed after any incident.

Before deciding to intervene, staff should as part of their dynamic risk assessment weigh up whether the risk of not intervening is greater than the risk posed by the situation.

Complaints

Any complaint will be considered in light of the school's Child Protection Policy, related procedures and this policy.

Links with other policies

Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy

Complaints Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy