



## Physical Intervention Policy

Reviewed: September 2022

Next review: September 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Drake', is positioned above the 'Approved by Governors:' text.

Approved by Governors:

## **INTRODUCTION**

This policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils within Causeway Green Primary School. It is designed to explain the school's arrangements for care and **physical intervention**.

This policy has been developed in response to the recommendations and guidance in the 'Use of Reasonable Force Advice for Headteachers, Staff and Governing Bodies' (July 2013), Education and Inspections Act 2006 and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022'.

We also acknowledge our legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN).

## **VISION**

Our vision is to create a calm, well-ordered and secure atmosphere at Causeway Green Primary School. Our behaviour policy is designed to encourage pupils to make positive behaviour choices and prevent physical incidents from occurring and this policy should be read in conjunction with this.

## **AIMS**

**All staff and pupils at Causeway Green Primary School have a right to:**

- be treated with respect and dignity;
- learn and work in a safe and healthy environment and be protected from harm;
- receive adequate information, support and training.

**All staff and pupils at Causeway Green Primary School should:**

- follow the School's code of conduct, rules and policies.

**Parents of pupils attending Causeway Green Primary School have a right to:**

- expect staff to undertake their duties and responsibilities in accordance with school policies;
- have access to school rules, policies and expected conduct for all;
- be informed of the service's complaints procedure.

## **PURPOSE**

Positive relationships built on trust and understanding between our staff and pupils are vital to ensure that we work together and keep everyone safe in school. We recognise that restraint of any kind can have a negative impact on these relationships and so we expect all staff to understand that all behaviour is a form of communication and that we have a responsibility to understand children's needs, as well as protecting and promoting their rights. Staff must also understand the impact of a child's history on their behavior, including any past trauma or special educational needs.

We know that the majority of pupils at Causeway Green Primary School respond well to our behavior policy and that this ensures the well-being and safety of all pupils and staff within the school.

However, it is acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, staff may need to take action in situations where the use of reasonable force is required.

Physical intervention is only applied

- as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible
- as a last resort when all other measures have failed
- for the shortest time possible
- at the same time, to allow the pupil to regain self-control.

It NEVER takes a form which could be seen as punishment.

This policy seeks to ensure that staff at Causeway Green Primary School clearly understand their responsibilities in taking appropriate measures where reasonable force is required.

## **DEFINITIONS OF PHYSICAL INTERVENTIONS**

There is no legal definition of 'reasonable'. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils. The use of force can only be regarded as reasonable if the circumstances of the particular incident warrant it and the degree of force employed is proportionate to the level of challenging behaviour presented or the consequences it is intended to prevent.

Restraint – The reasonable use of minimum force required to overpower a child or young person with the intention of **preventing** them from harming themselves, others or causing serious damage to property (and within education settings preventing behaviour prejudicial to good order). Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control.

## **APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT**

Causeway Green Primary School staff members have a responsibility to act at all times in a manner which reflects positively on their professional status. Whilst it is recognised that there are situations in which appropriate physical contact occurs in the school setting between staff and pupils, it must be understood that to undertake any form of physical control places staff in a vulnerable situation and can have a negative impact on the mental health of both the staff and child involved.

It can only be justified according to those circumstances described in this policy. Staff therefore, have a responsibility to seek alternative strategies *whenever possible/appropriate* in order to prevent the need for physical intervention.

**Reasonable force may only be used when it is necessary to prevent a pupil from:**

- Putting themselves or others at risk of harm;
- Causing serious damage to property;
- Committing a criminal offence (e.g. criminal damage, assault of pupils/staff etc)
- Engaging in any behaviour (including running around inside/outside the building and absconding) which is prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in the classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere and; **where no other form of control is available and where it is necessary to intervene.**

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical intervention would be necessary or appropriate. Staff will exercise their own professional judgment in situations which arise within the above categories. Physical intervention will only ever be used as a last resort when all other appropriate strategies have failed and must never be used as a punishment. The physical contact used will only ever be the minimum required. Any physical intervention is used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned. Incidents are recorded and reported to the headteacher and parents are informed of each incident.

## **AUTHORISED STAFF**

All staff at Causeway Green Primary School are authorised, within the content of this policy and the legal position indicated above to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils. Best practice recommends that, where possible, only MAPA or Team Teach trained staff use the restraint techniques they have been trained for. However, it is recognised that ALL staff have a duty of care to our children and may need to use reasonable force to keep our children safe. The Headteacher will ensure that those authorised are aware of, and understand properly, what the authorisation entails.

## **TRAINING SUPPORT**

It is the duty of the CPD lead (DHT) to ensure adequate training is provided for staff in order to operate this policy. Responsibility for coordinating this training and ensuring staff attend renewal of their training will be the responsibility of the CPD lead (DHT). Staff attend either a MAPA (Management of Actual or Potential Aggression) or Team Teach training course that provides staff with a range of proactive and reactive physical intervention strategies which enable them to work more effectively with individuals who present with aggressive and violent behaviour, using therapeutic holding.

Members of staff will not be expected to undertake the use of reasonable force without knowledge of the school's policy. New staff will be fully briefed prior to authorising their participation. Training will include clarification of the circumstances when physical intervention should be used. Staff involved in incidents of physical intervention will be offered a debrief and the opportunity to access personal support, including counselling if required.

## **GUIDELINES FOR STAFF**

In the exceptional circumstances when physical restraint or intervention becomes necessary, staff

DO:

- Summon help / involve another member of staff if possible
- Continue to talk to the pupil in a calm way
- Use simple and clear language
- Tell the pupil what s/he must do for them to remove the restraint (this may need frequent repetition)
- Use the minimum force necessary
- Be aware of any feelings of anger
- Relax the restraint in response to the pupil's compliance

## DON'T:

- Try to manage on their own
- Stop talking even if the pupil does not reply
- Act in temper
- Allow a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil
- Involve other pupils in the restraint
- Use physical restraint or intervention as a punishment
- Touch or hold the pupil in a way that could be viewed as sexually inappropriate conduct
- Twist or force limbs back against a joint

## **POWER TO SEARCH PUPILS**

In addition to the general power to use reasonable force described above, headteachers and authorised staff can use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances to conduct a search for the following “prohibited items”:

- knives and weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property.

Force cannot be used to search for items banned under the school rules.

## **RECORDING and REPORTING**

As soon as is reasonably practicable, following an incident where reasonable force has been used, the member of staff involved will inform the Headteacher or Deputy following this up with a written incident report in line with Causeway Green Primary School’s behaviour policy.

Causeway Green Primary school will keep an up to date record of all incidents where reasonable force has been used. All Parents/Carers and, where appropriate, social workers will be informed as soon as practicable. If the behaviour is part of an ongoing pattern, the situation may need to be further addressed through an individual behaviour plan and advice sought from the Sandwell Inclusion Support team.

The school will review these records after each incident in order to identify any repeated incidents or patterns and take appropriate action. This may take the form of an individual behaviour plan, which will be discussed with parents/carers to understand the needs of the child and provide positive behaviour strategies to try and reduce the occurrence of physical intervention being necessary.

## **RISK ASSESSMENTS**

If the school becomes aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a disruptive way that may require the use of reasonable force, the school will assess any possible risks and plan how to prevent, limit and respond to possible situations that may arise. These plans may include;

- Identifying possible hazards.
- Identifying and avoiding possible triggers.
- Adjusting settings or school based activities.
- Providing a safe area for the pupil to regain control.
- Listing and agreeing strategies to be used prior physical intervention.
- Briefing of staff to ensure they know exactly what action should be taken and when.
- Identifying and assigning **trained** staff to support when needed.
- Regular meeting between school and home to involve parents.
- Procedure for supporting the pupil and staff after/if reasonable force was required.

**This policy should be read in conjunction with;**

- **Behaviour Policy**
- **Safeguarding and Child Protection policy**
- **SEND Policy**
- **Staff conduct Policy**