

Bel Royal School



Physical Intervention Policy

Purpose

UNCRC Article 19: I have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated.

Occasionally, situations arise when it proves necessary for an adult in the school to physically intervene to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff. This policy describes our approach to the use of physical intervention. It is informed by the non-statutory guidance issued by the Department for Children, Schools, and Families (UK) and best practice guidance from MAYBO positive and safer outcomes.

Any physical intervention will be in line with Education (Jersey) Law 2017, Justifications for Physical Intervention:

- Committing a criminal offence, whether or not the pupil has reached the age of criminal responsibility.
- Injuring themselves or others.
- Causing property damage, including their property.
- Engaging in any behaviour which has a negative impact on maintaining good order and discipline at the school or on other pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in the classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere.

Principles

We believe that:

- Physical intervention is a last resort and should only be used when other methods have been exhausted or judged unlikely to succeed

- Physical intervention should only be used to prevent a pupil from harming themselves or others or from seriously damaging property
- Physical intervention should involve minimum reasonable force and should seek to avoid injury. The degree and duration of any force applied must be proportional to the circumstances
- The rights and dignity of the pupil and staff must be acknowledged
- Staff must avoid ways of holding pupils that could be construed as abusive

Who is authorised to use physical intervention?

Only named staff members who have received up-to-date Safer Handling training are authorised to use physical intervention unless, in the event of immediate danger to themselves or others, it is expected that this right will be exercised sparingly and only under the circumstances described in this policy.

When is it appropriate to use physical intervention?

It is only appropriate to use physical intervention in certain circumstances and only if all other strategies have not worked (however, it is essential to note that often decisions to use physical intervention may be made very quickly and under pressure, and so all other strategies may not have been used on every occasion).

Procedures

Staff are not allowed to physically intervene out of anger or frustration or to injure or punish. The onus is on staff to determine the appropriate degree of physical intervention and when it should be used.

If physical intervention is deemed necessary, a pupil should be sent to fetch a second adult to observe or support the physical intervention. A record of any incident where physical intervention has been used must be given to the Headteacher and should include:

- the time
- the nature of the physical intervention
- details of any injuries
- the names of pupils and staff present
- the staff involved in the physical intervention
- the outcomes

The parents of the pupil **must** be informed.

If a pupil needs physical intervention on more than one occasion in one month, they will need a Consistent Management Plan.

The use of physical intervention will be emotionally stressful for pupils and staff, who should seek and accept support after an incident. In the short term, this might include time out of class.

Where a member of staff has acted in a professional, considered, and informed manner and where the actions are a reasonable response to a situation, CYPES will support the member of staff in any resulting proceedings.

How are incidents of physical intervention recorded?

When physical intervention is used, the incident must be recorded on the school form. Parents must be informed of the need for physical intervention on their child on the same day.

For pupils supported through SEMHIT, an amended form will be completed and sent to the SEMHIT team.

Safe Touch

What is Safe Touch?

Safe touch is:

- Comforting an upset or distressed pupil
- Congratulating or praising a pupil
- Holding the hand of a pupil to guide them, such as when crossing a road or walking to assembly
- Giving first aid to a pupil
- Demonstrating exercises or techniques during PE lessons, administering medicine, or when using musical instruments

Keeping safe:

- We will hold a pupil's hand when giving guidance, reassurance or to comfort them.
- Younger children can sit on our laps if they require comfort or reassurance. The child must be sat sideways or facing outwards and never in a front embrace.
- If a member of staff attempts to use one of the safe methods of touch and a pupil is unhappy with this, the member of staff will retract immediately to respect the pupil's wishes.
- Where possible, we avoid lone working with pupils. If we are lone working, we will always be in a room with windows and a clear exit.

Reporting Inappropriate Touch:

-If a pupil attempts to engage in any inappropriate touch, the member of staff involved will report this immediately to one of our safeguarding leads, Claire Hammond, David Mills or Josie Fernandes.

-If another member of staff suspects or witnesses inappropriate physical contact, whereby the member of staff is willingly involved, they will report this to one of the safeguarding leads immediately.

-Any allegations against staff will be dealt with as a matter of urgency.