



PAPILLON HOUSE SCHOOL

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY

Introduction and Context

Papillon House School is an independent specialist primary and secondary school for autistic children and young people. It provides a caring and nurturing environment with an emphasis on strong, positive relationships between staff and pupils, which is a major determinant of good behaviour and a positive ethos. At Papillon House School we treat all our pupils with respect for personal space and encourage their independence. However, we also want all our pupils to feel safe and secure at school and to achieve their potential whilst they are here. On occasion some pupils may display challenging behaviour which requires safe and skilled management. This policy should be read in accordance with the Behaviour Policy and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Principles

At Papillon House School we are committed to ensuring that all staff and adults with responsibility for pupil's safety and welfare will:

- Deal professionally with incidents of aggressive behaviour
- will only use physical intervention as a last resort,
- will always ensure minimal risk of injury to pupils and staff.

Use of physical intervention, when all other strategies and approaches have failed, can reasonably be considered in situations involving risk to the safety of the individual, other pupils, staff or visitors.

Guidance from Department of Education, *Reducing the Need for Restraint and Restrictive Intervention, June 2019*, makes clear that restrictive intervention [including all forms of control and restraint] should only be used when absolutely necessary, in accordance with the law and clear ethical values and principles which respect the rights and dignity of children and young people, and are in proportion to the risks involved.

Physical intervention will never be used as a punishment.

Relevant Legislation

The use of all forms of physical intervention is covered by criminal and civil law. Unwarranted or inappropriate use of force may constitute an assault and may infringe the pupils' human right.

Section 93, Education and Inspections Act 2006 confirms the position about the use of reasonable force by teachers, and others authorised by the Director and Head Teacher, to control or restrain pupils. Further guidance is given in *Use of reasonable Force, Advice for Head Teachers, staff and governing bodies, July 2013*.

Any use of physical intervention by staff will always be reasonable, proportionate and lawful. Reasonable force will be used only when immediately necessary and for the minimum time necessary to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following:

- committing a criminal offence
- injuring themselves or others
- causing damage to property, including their own
- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to good order and discipline at the School or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in a classroom or elsewhere.

The term 'reasonable force' covers a range of physical contact that may be used to control or restrain a pupil. This could include: standing and blocking a pupil's path; guiding a pupil to safety by the arm; or restraint in order to prevent violence or injury.

Reasonable force means using no more force than is needed and school staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury. In extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

Reasonable force allows schools to:

- remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and
- restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

Training

All staff at Papillon House School are trained in the use of Team Teach, which also follows a Positive Behaviour Support Approach, in keeping with our Behaviour Policy. The training includes how to intervene and restrain pupils in the safest way possible. The training is renewed every year to make sure all staff are up to date. Having all staff trained, in every staff role in the school, means all our staff are able to respond to incidents and support our pupils in the safest way.

Actions following an incident

- Following any incident in which physical intervention is used, checks will be made for any injuries and appropriate first aid provided if necessary for both pupils and staff.
- Any staff involved in the intervention are given time to recover, where possible, particularly if they have been hurt.
- Pupils will be supported according to their PBS plan to recover from the incident and move on with their day.
- Following significant incidents in which a pupil or staff has been hurt, restraint was used, or a pupil was significantly dysregulated, senior staff will be informed and a debrief will

be held either that day or the following day. The debrief will be led by a senior member of staff and include all staff involved in the incident (plus the Class teacher and team). This offers an opportunity for staff to review and process what happened and to learn from the incident that has taken place.

- Where appropriate, pupils may also be offered a debrief with a familiar member of staff to help them understand what happened, share their views and understand why staff may have taken the actions that they did.
- Further details of responding to behaviour are detailed in the Behaviour Policy

Recording and Reporting

All incidents of physical intervention will be recorded on CPOMS as soon as possible, or by the end of the day. When recording incidents staff will alert the Head Teacher and Head of Therapy who will review the incident report.

Where a physical intervention has left a mark on a pupil or resulted in an injury for the pupil, this will be reported to the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) who will advise on whether any further action is required.

Any injuries to staff resulting from incidents with pupils will be recorded on the Accident Report Form and kept in the Accident folder.

Any injuries to pupils must be recorded on CPOMS.

Parental Involvement

The school's Physical Intervention Policy is made available to parents and carers when a pupil starts at the school. It is also published on the school website.

While the School is not required to obtain the consent of parents/carers to use physical intervention on a pupil, parents/carers are asked to support our Physical Intervention Policy. They will also be kept fully informed of any significant incidents where physical intervention was required.

Complaints

Any complaints about the use of physical intervention will be investigated in accordance with the School's complaints procedures.

Link to relevant policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy. The Behaviour Policy details the Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) approach that we use at Papillon House School, which aims to ensure staff are using proactive strategies to reduce behaviours that challenge. It means that staff understand

and can predict likely behaviours and have planned responses, to make sure that any physical interventions are kept to a minimum.

- Health and safety policy
- First Aid policy

This policy was reviewed and revised by Heather Dilks-Hopper, Head of Therapy in May 2024.

It was agreed by the Management Team in July 2024.

Policy				
Positive Handling (Part of Behaviour Policy)	Written	Gillian Hutton	The Management Team	September 2007
Positive Handling (Part of Behaviour Policy)	Reviewed	Alicia Rickman	Teacher Responsible for Behaviour	October 2009
Positive Handling (Part of Behaviour Policy)	Reviewed & Amended	Alicia Rickman	Deputy Head Teacher	September 2011
Positive Handling (Part of Behaviour Policy)	Reviewed	Alicia Rickman	Deputy Head Teacher	October 2013
Positive Handling (Part of Behaviour Policy)	Reviewed & Amended	Alicia Rickman	Acting Head Teacher	September 2014
Positive Handling (Part of Behaviour Policy)	Reviewed & Amended	Alicia Rickman	Head Teacher	September 2016
Positive Handling (Part of Behaviour Policy)	Reviewed & Amended	Alicia Rickman	Head Teacher	September 2017
Positive Handling	Reviewed & Revised	VWV Solicitors		October 2017
Physical Intervention	Reviewed & Amended	Heather Dilks-Hopper	Head of Therapy	June 2021
Physical Intervention	Reviewed & Amended	Heather Dilks-Hopper	Head of Therapy	April 2024