



Physical Restraint Policy

Reviewed July 2019

SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

OUR VISION

Our vision is for every child to achieve their full potential through distinctive Christian values within a stimulating and friendly environment: to ensure that each child has the necessary skills to become a confident adult in an increasingly challenging and global world.

OUR AIMS

We aim to be a school that values individuality and gives time for every child.

We aim to develop.....

A creative person

a child who is independent, inventive and an individual

a child who can solve problems

a child who is full of imagination

A co-operative person

a child who is part of a team

a child who loves learning

a child who can form positive relationships

An environmentally friendly person

a child who is aware of how humans impact on the world

a child who looks after the environment

a child who shows responsibility

A working person

a child who is motivated

a child who is an independent learner

a child who responds positively to new things/ideas

An enlightened person

a child who is aware of their surroundings

a child who feels the wonder of "I can do it"

a child who is open minded and tolerant

A person searching for meaning

a child who seeks to find out

a child who strives to understand

a child who actively questions

North Cave CE Primary School
Policy for Physical Restraint

At North Cave CE Primary School, we are committed to a positive behaviour policy which encourages children to make positive behaviour choices. We do however recognise that children sometimes do make the wrong choices. On rare occasions this may result in a situation that requires some form of physical intervention by staff. Our policy for physical intervention is based upon the following principles:-

- Physical intervention should be used only as a last resort when other appropriate strategies have failed.
- Any physical contact should be only the minimum required.
- Physical intervention must be used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.
- Incidents must be recorded and reported to the Headteacher, or in his absence, the Assistant Headteacher or School Business Manager as soon as possible
- Parents will be informed of each incident.

1. The Legal Framework

Section 93 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 allows teachers and other persons who are authorised by the Head Teacher who have control or charge of pupils to use such force as is reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:-

- causing injury to his/herself or others
- committing an offence
- damaging property
- prejudicing the maintenance of good order & discipline

2. Our approach

At North Cave CE Primary School we aim to avoid the need for physical intervention and regard this as a last resort. We always aim to deal with behaviour using a positive approach. Therefore this policy should be read in conjunction with our Behaviour Policy. We offer staff training in physical restraint and methods of deescalating a situation.

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate. All staff will have to exercise their professional judgement in these situations in line with the legal framework and approach of the school. Staff should always act within the School's policy on behaviour and discipline, particularly in dealing with disruptive behaviour.

Staff should be aware that when they are in charge of children they are acting in *loco parentis* and have a 'Duty of Care' to all children they are in charge of. They must, therefore, take reasonable action to ensure all pupils' safety and well being.

Staff are not expected to place themselves in situations where they are likely to suffer injury as a result of their intervention.

3. Use of physical restraint

Physical restraint should be applied as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allow the pupil to regain self-control. It should never take a form which could be seen as punishment.

Staff are only authorised to use reasonable force in applying physical restraint, although there is no absolute definition of this. What constitutes reasonable force depends upon the particular situation and the pupil to whom it is being applied. However, as a general rule, only the force necessary to stop or prevent danger should be used, in accordance with the guidelines below.

In all circumstances, alternative methods should be used as appropriate with physical intervention or restraint, a last resort.

When physical restraint becomes necessary:

DO

- Tell the pupil what you are doing and why
- Use the minimum force necessary
- Involve another member of staff if possible
- Tell the pupil what s/he must do for you to remove the restraint (this may need frequent repetition)
- Use simple and clear language
- Hold limbs above a major joint if possible e.g. above the elbow
- Relax your restraint in response to the pupil's compliance
- If you are the only adult, send for adult assistance immediately

DON'T

- Act in temper (involve another staff member if you fear loss of control)
- Involve yourself in a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil
- Involve other pupils in the restraint
- Touch or hold the pupil in a way that could be viewed as sexually inappropriate conduct
- Twist or force limbs back against a joint
- Bend fingers or pull hair
- Hold the pupil in a way which will restrict blood flow or breathing e.g. around the neck
- Slap, punch, kick or trip up the pupil
- Use physical restraint or intervention as a punishment

4. Actions after an incident

Physical restraint often occurs in response to highly charged emotional situations and there is a clear need for debriefing after an incident, both for the staff involved and the pupil. The head teacher, assistant headteacher or school business manager should be informed of any incident as soon as possible and will take responsibility for making arrangements for debriefing once the situation has stabilised. An appropriate member of staff should always be involved in debriefing the pupil involved. Any victims of the incident should be offered support, and their parents informed by the school.

If the behaviour is part of an ongoing pattern it may be necessary to address the situation through the development of a behavioural plan, which may include an anger management programme, or other strategies agreed by the SENDCO. This may require additional support from other services, for example the Local Authority's Behavioural Support Team.

All incidents should be recorded immediately on CPOMS, stating:-

- Date and time of incident
- Member(s) of staff involved
- Adult witnesses to restraint
- Pupil witnesses to restraint
- Outline of event leading to restraint
- Outline of incident of restraint (including restraint method used)
- Outcome of restraint
- Description of any injury(ies) sustained by injured pupil and any subsequent treatment
- Details to help avoid future incidents
- Date and time parent/carer informed of incident and by whom
- Outline of parent/carer response
- Brief description of any subsequent inquiry/complaint or action

All of the information above should be included so that the school can identify and address any patterns of behaviour. In the event of any future complaint or allegation this record will provide essential and accurate information.

Should CPOMS be unavailable, the Record of Physical Intervention or Restraint Form (attached) may be completed and scanned in and attached to the pupil record.

Consideration of the circumstances precipitating the incident and exploring ways in which future incidents can be avoided should also be documented within CPOMS.

A member of the leadership team will contact parents as soon as possible after an incident, normally on the same day, to inform them of the actions that were taken and why, and to provide them with an opportunity to discuss it.

5. Risk Assessments

If we become aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a disruptive way that may require the use of reasonable force, we will plan how to respond if the situation arises. Such planning will address:

- Strategies to be used prior to intervention
- Ways of avoiding 'triggers' if these are known
- Involvement of parents/carers to ensure that they are clear about the specific action the school might need to take
- Briefing of staff/support staff (including supply staff) to ensure they know exactly what action they should be taking (this may identify a need for training or guidance)
- Identification of additional support that can be summoned if appropriate
- The school's duty of care to all pupils and staff

6. Complaints and Allegations

A clear Physical Restraint Policy, adhered to by all staff, should help to avoid complaints from parents/carers. Any dispute about the use of force by a member of staff might lead to an investigation, which would be covered under the complaints disciplinary or allegation management procedures.

RECORD OF PHYSICAL INTERVENTION OR RESTRAINT

Date of incident: Time of incident:

Pupil Name: D.o.B:

Member(s) of staff involved:

Adult witnesses to restraint:

Pupil witnesses to restraint:

Outline of event leading to restraint:

Outline of incident of restraint (including restraint method used):

Outcome of restraint:

Description of any injury(ies) sustained by injured pupil and any subsequent treatment:

Details to help avoid future incidents

Date parent/carer informed of incident: Time:

By whom informed:

Outline of parent/carer response:

Signature of staff completing report: Date:

Signature of Teacher-in-charge: Date:

Signature of Head : Date:

Brief description of any subsequent inquiry/complaint or action: