



## Physical Contact and

## Restraint Policy

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Deputy DSL (s)	<b>Mrs K Gardner Mrs N Evans Mrs J Torbett</b>
Safeguarding Governor / Chair of Governors	<b>Mr S Whittaker</b>
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At Moss Side, physical contact between pupils and adults is considered a necessary part of education for some but equally is not sought or encouraged unnecessarily. This policy aims to outline our response to any form of physical contact and/or restraint.

### **Positive Contact**

For some pupils of primary age, physical contact with adults is an important human need and an expression of care and concern for all pupils. However, physical contact must be appropriate for the age, understanding and sex of the child and must never threaten or be sexually inappropriate.

Staff must be sensitive to:

- cultural backgrounds
- the need to maintain pupils' personal space
- an awareness of pupils who have been sexually abused and will either seek physical contact or positively avoid it

Physical contact may be appropriate:

- when a pupil needs comfort or reassurance e.g. following an accident or personal crisis.
- when a pupil needs encouragement to attempt a new challenge e.g. to climb on to a piece of apparatus.
- when there is a need to take urgent action to avoid an incident or injury.

Staff should take care when offering physical comfort to pupils being particularly mindful of pupils who may be approaching puberty when physical contact could be misconstrued and cause distress to all concerned. Staff should take reasonable measures when they are left alone supervising/talking with/teaching small groups or individual pupils (e.g. leaving the door open or being in sight of other staff).

### **The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils**

The vast majority of instances are dealt with without the need for any form of physical intervention. In extreme circumstances, it should be noted that force can be applied following [DfE guidelines](#):

- Members of staff have the power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline in the classroom.
- Head teachers and authorised school staff may also use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search without consent for knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks, pornographic images or articles that have been or could be used to commit an offence or cause harm.



## Physical Contact and Restraint Policy

Staff therefore have a right to defend themselves against physical attack, and do everything possible to diffuse the situation before such an attack occurs. In the event that it is necessary to defend themselves against physical attack minimum force for maximum effect should be used.

### Situations in which reasonable force might be appropriate

- i. When action is necessary in self-defence e.g. when the pupil attacks another pupil or adult
- ii. Where there is an immediate or imminent risk of injury to another child or an adult e.g. when pupils are fighting or there is rough play or misuse of dangerous materials or objects.
- iii. Where there is immediate risk of significant damage to property – when a pupil is about to vandalise property.
- iv. Where behaviour jeopardises good order and discipline e.g. where a pupil absconds from the classroom or school buildings. (Note – this only applies if the pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or at school)
- v. A pupil persistently refuses to leave an area and this is likely to cause harm to their wellbeing, or their safety cannot be secured if they remain in that area (e.g. somewhere they cannot be supervised).
- vi. Behaviour which seriously disrupts a lesson.

Before intervening, staff should consider if there is an alternative approach which would work in the circumstances i.e. there is an immediate urgency to resolve the situation?

### What kinds of physical force and restraint might be used?

Physical intervention can take several forms. It might involve staff

- physically interposing between pupils
- blocking a pupil's path
- holding
- pushing or pulling (but only in extreme circumstances to avoid danger)
- leading a pupil by the hand or arm
- shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back

Should more extreme interactions be needed, these will usually have been addressed in an individual plan due to the nature of a pupil's needs (only on the rarest occasions would more than the above be required and would involve an immediate danger to the pupil themselves or to others).

In extreme circumstances, staff should not act in a way that might be expected to cause injury for example by:

- holding a pupil around the neck or by the collar or in any other way that might restrict the ability to breathe
- slapping, punching or kicking
- twisting or forcing limbs against joint



## Physical Contact and Restraint Policy

- tripping up
- holding or pulling by the hair or ear
- holding a pupil face down on the ground

Staff should always avoid touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered indecent. Staff must always consider whether a risk is urgent and whether there is any alternative to physical intervention. Staff should always try to deal with the situation using other strategies to calm a situation before using force. See advice in the school behaviour policy.

### Procedure if force is required

- Staff must use minimum force for maximum effect over the shortest time and use only the agreed restraint methods (as above or in an individual plan)
- Pupil safety is paramount. Staff must be aware of signs of distress such as vomiting, changes in colour, breathlessness etc.
- After an incident staff must complete a CPOMS report
- Parents should typically be informed of the incident, the circumstances which led up to the incident and the outcome. Parents must also be informed of any future action the school intends to take.
- Should there be a need to do so, reassurance and support will be provided to any pupils who witness a significant incident.
- Should the incident be significant, the senior management team and staff will evaluate any incident or physical restraint to inform future management of pupils in similar situations.
- Staff involved will be debriefed following a significant incident and kept informed of any future action which relates to it.
- This policy will be reviewed in tandem with the Positive Behaviour Policy

### Essential Points to Remember:

Whenever possible, staff are advised to seek the support of another adult (ideally a named adult/member of SLT) when they need to use reasonable force to resolve a situation they cannot deal with in any other way. In some extreme cases staff are advised not to intervene in an incident, unless it is an emergency. Staff must judge whether it is safe to remove other pupils to a safe distance and seek help from other colleagues or the police. In such incidents, the teacher/member of staff should tell the pupil that he/she has sent for help and continue to try to diffuse the situation. If the situation is diffused successfully, the CPOMS log must still be completed so that others may learn from the experience.

### Complaints

This should follow the school Feedback and Complaints Policy.

### Risk Assessment



## Physical Contact and Restraint Policy

- All staff including teachers, classroom assistants and other colleagues in the school must be informed about pupils/families who are vulnerable or volatile (via annual class review, CPOMS and/or in class communication between staff).
- No staff member should act in a way likely to cause injury to themselves and should seek advice of a member of senior management team should they have any current or ongoing concerns.
- Staff working with the youngest pupils the majority of the time are Teamteach trained and this is renewed every three years.
- Where needed, a risk assessment based on knowledge and previous experience will be carried out and a plan of action for individuals will be written by the staff and agreed with the Headteacher/ SLT.

<b>Team Teach Training (Level One)</b>	
<b>Member of Staff</b>	<b>Date of completion</b>
Mr A Wright	25.02.2022
Mrs K Gardner	25.02.2022
Mrs J Creaney	25.02.2022
Miss M Jones	25.02.2022
Mr S Gilyead	25.02.2022
Ms M Murphy	25.02.2022
Ms K Steward	25.02.2022
Mrs V Crighton	25.02.2022
Mrs N Evans	26.01.2023
Mrs L Topping	02.02.2023
Mrs D Coulson	02.02.2023
Miss S Thomas	08.11.2023
Miss J Schwarz	08.11.2023