



Physical Contact and Restraint Policy

Policy Leader / DSL / HT	Mr A Wright
Deputy DSL (s)	Mrs K Gardner Mrs N Evans Mrs J Torbett
Safeguarding Governor / Chair of Governors	Mr S Whittaker
Last Updated	October 2024
Approved by the Governing Body	November 2024
Date to Review	November 2025 (at the latest)



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 gender of the child.

Staff must be sensitive to:

- cultural backgrounds.
- the need to maintain pupils' personal space.
- an awareness of pupils who may have SEN needs and/or experienced abuse.

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 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 reasonable force to be applied, through the calm environment created by The Moss Side Way. In extreme circumstances, it should be noted that reasonable force can be applied following [DfE guidelines](#).

What is reasonable force?

- The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
- Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking a fight or where a pupil needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
- 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- Staff may need to use force to control pupils and to restrain them. 'Control' means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as guiding



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a pupil out of a classroom. 'Restraint' means to physically intervene. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate.

- Staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

Who can use reasonable force?

- All members of staff have a legal power to use reasonable force.
- This power applies to any member of staff at the school.
- At Moss Side, some members of staff are specifically trained in restraint techniques (TEAMTEACH) in order to provide assistance to staff should a pupil's behaviour ever escalate to dangerous levels. They have been chosen through careful assessment of our school's needs and are named at the end of this policy.

When can reasonable force be used?

- Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property or from causing disorder.
- In a school force can be used, if it is necessary, to ensure the safety of all.
- The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances. Before intervening, staff should consider if there is an alternative approach which would work in the circumstances through dynamic risk assessment i.e. there is an immediate urgency to resolve the situation? Have attempts been made to de-escalate the situation in an alternative way?
- Examples of where reasonable force could be used include: removing disruptive pupils from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction, preventing a pupil from behaving in such a way that disrupts a school event or trip, preventing a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their health and safety, preventing a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil or to stop a fight in the playground and to restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts etc...

Procedure if reasonable force is required

- Staff must use minimum force for maximum effect over the shortest time and use the above methodology to risk assess. For pupils with an individual plan, staff members with regular contact should be fully aware of the strategies and responses.
- Pupil safety is paramount. Staff must be aware of signs of distress and continually risk assessing 'what is the safest way to deal with this incident?'
- After an incident staff must complete a CPOMS report, which clearly explains Antecedents, Behaviours and Consequences (ABC) and is tagged appropriately to allow further monitoring and analysis.
- 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.

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vi. Should the incident be significant, the senior management team, DSLs and staff involved will evaluate any incident or physical restraint to inform future management of pupils in similar situations. Individual risk assessments will be considered at this point.

vii. Staff involved will be debriefed following a significant incident and kept informed of any future action which relates to it.

viii. 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 with Team Teach training) when they need to use reasonable force to resolve a situation that possess risk of harm to an individual or group. 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 de-escalate the situation. If the situation is de-escalated successfully, the CPOMS log must still be completed so that others may learn from the experience.

Complaints and Allegations

This should follow the school Feedback and Complaints Policy and/or LADO procedures clearly outlined in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Risk Assessment

- All staff including teachers, teaching assistants and other colleagues in the school must be informed about pupils/families who are vulnerable and/or high risk (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 our youngest pupils the majority of the time are Team Teach 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.
- As a school, all staff regularly access behaviour training updates through staff meetings, briefings, INSETs and courses from external providers.

Team Teach Training (Level One)	
Member of Staff	Date of completion
Mr A Wright	29.10.2024
Mrs K Gardner	29.10.2024
Mrs J Creaney	29.10.2024
Mr S Gilyead	29.10.2024
Ms M Murphy	29.10.2024
Ms K Steward	25.02.2022
Mrs V Crighton	29.10.2024
Mrs N Evans	26.01.2023



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Mrs L Topping	02.02.2023
Mrs D Coulson	29.10.2024
Miss S Thomas	08.11.2023
Miss J Schwarz	08.11.2023
Miss H White	31.01.2024
Miss J Schwarz	31.01.2024
Miss E Storton	29.10.2024
Miss R Bryce	29.10.2024
Mrs L Berry	29.10.2024
Mrs S Simpkins	22.05.2024
Mrs J Torbett	29.10.2024