

# CROFTON SCHOOL

## Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy

This policy is based on the document “Restrictive Physical intervention in schools: Hampshire County Council policy and guidance for schools” (September 2009)

### ***Objectives***

The primary objective of this policy is to keep all members of the school community safe. As such, it is important that members of staff, governors, parents and students understand the circumstances under which restrictive physical intervention may be used. It is also important that members of staff understand what form restrictive physical intervention can reasonably take.

### ***Rationale***

Restrictive physical intervention should be avoided wherever possible. Techniques other than restrictive physical intervention (especially speaking to the student and/or standing in a particular place) should be used when managing incidents wherever practical.

Staff must always be mindful of their own safety – they must not attempt restrictive physical intervention if they do not believe they can do so safely. Force must not under any circumstances be used as a punishment or in order to humiliate a student. Everyone has a right to use reasonable force to prevent an attack on themselves or others.

### ***Definition***

We define restrictive physical intervention as follows:

Restrictive physical intervention is the deliberate use of force by a member of staff to restrict a child’s movement against his or her will.

There are times when children’s behaviour presents particular challenges that may require restrictive physical intervention. This policy sets out our expectations for the use of such intervention. It is not intended to refer to the general use of physical contact which might be appropriate in a range of situations, such as:

- giving physical guidance to children (for example in practical activities and PE)
- providing emotional support when a child is distressed
- providing physical care (such as first aid or toileting).

This policy is consistent with our Child Protection and Equal Opportunities policies, and with national and local guidance for schools on safeguarding children.

### ***Principles for the use of restrictive physical intervention***

#### **In the context of positive approaches**

We only use restrictive physical intervention where the risks involved in using force are outweighed by the risks involved in not using force. It is not our preferred way of managing children’s behaviour. We aim to do all we can in order to avoid using restrictive physical

intervention. We would only use restrictive physical intervention where we judge that there is no reasonably practicable less intrusive alternative. However, there may be rare situations of such concern where we judge that we would need to use restrictive physical intervention immediately. We would use restrictive physical intervention at the same time as using other approaches, such as saying, "Stop!" and giving a warning of what might happen next. Safety is always a paramount concern and staff are not advised to use restrictive physical intervention if it is likely to put themselves at risk.

### **Duty of care**

We all have a duty of care towards the children in our setting. This duty of care applies as much to what we *don't* do as what we *do* do. When children are in danger of hurting themselves or others, or of causing significant damage to property, we have a responsibility to intervene. In most cases, this involves an attempt to divert the child to another activity or a simple instruction to "Stop!" along with a warning of what might happen next. However, if we judge that it is necessary, we may use restrictive physical intervention.

### **Reasonable force**

When we need to use restrictive physical intervention, we use it within the principle of reasonable force. This means using an amount of force in proportion to the circumstances. We use as little force as is necessary in order to maintain safety, and we use this for as short a period as possible. Reasonable force may include:

- leading a student by the hand or arm
- gentle pressure on the centre of the student's back
- holding the student still

It would not include:

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

In addition:

- it must be in proportion to the circumstances and constitute the minimum necessary to achieve the desired result
- it must take account of the age, size, gender and understanding of the student

During the incident, it is good practice to warn the student that restrictive physical intervention may be necessary. It is also good practice to continue to talk to the student throughout the incident in a calm and measured manner.

Restrictive physical intervention should not generally be used to prevent a student from leaving a room or the school premises, unless it is likely that the student is placing him/herself or other people at risk by doing so. It may, however, be appropriate to stand between students or to block a student's path but only in the circumstances listed above.

Our duty of care means that we might use a restrictive physical intervention if a child is trying to leave our site and we judged that they would be at unacceptable risk. This duty of

care also extends beyond our site boundaries: there may also be situations where we need to use restrictive physical intervention when we have control or charge of children off site (e.g. on trips).

We never use restrictive physical intervention out of anger or as a punishment.

### ***When can restrictive physical intervention be used?***

Restrictive physical intervention may be justified when a student is:

1. committing an offence (or, for a student under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older student);
2. causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student himself); or
3. prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any students receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Restrictive physical intervention may also be appropriate where, although none of the above has yet happened, they are judged as highly likely to be about to happen *by the member of staff present*.

### ***Who can use restrictive physical intervention ..... by the member of staff present***

1. Any teacher who works at the school
2. Any other person whom the headteacher has authorised to have control or charge of students, including cover supervisors, learning support assistants, one-to-one tutors, lunchtime supervisors and support staff who undertake lunchtime supervision duties, *and members of the site team*.

### ***Recording incidents***

Staff should seek the advice and support of senior colleagues as soon as possible.

The Headteacher must be informed as soon as possible after any incident in which restraint is used. If the Headteacher is directly involved in the incident, the Chairman of the Governors must also be informed.

Restraint incidents must be recorded as soon as possible and certainly within 24 hours on the LA '*Interim physical intervention record forms booklet*'; these forms are kept in the main office. Pupils who have been restrained will be given the chance to record their views when they have calmed down and their comments will be attached to the Incident Report Form. The circumstances that led to restraint being used will be investigated and appropriate action taken. 1 copy of the completed form will be retained by the Headteacher's Personal Assistant; the other will be sent to the Local Education Authority.

### ***Involvement of parents***

The Headteacher (or appointed representative) will contact parents as soon as possible after any incident.

### ***Monitoring, evaluation and review***

Restrictive physical intervention incidents will be reviewed termly by the Senior Leadership Team and by the Discipline Committee of the Governing Body.