

Hillside Special School

Physical Intervention Policy

Date reviewed: 1 December 2017

Date of next review: Autumn 2018

Physical Contact

Physical contact with pupils may be proper and necessary in the process of teaching and meeting their needs.

- Pupils may require physical contact to enable them to experience and learn new skills and concepts.
- Physical contact may be necessary to encourage pupils to develop communication skills.
- Physical contact will occur naturally during certain activities e.g. swimming, drama, dance, PE, horse riding.
- Pupils in distress, or in need of reassurance, may seek or need comfort through physical contact. Acceptable ways of comforting pupils will vary from individual to individual, and will depend on age, gender and maturity;
- Physical contact may be necessary to maintain personal hygiene, administer medication or first aid.
- Unless a child is in severe distress physical contact should not usually include a child sitting on an adult's lap or being cuddled.

Use of Physical Interventions

If a pupil's behaviour is such that a physical intervention is considered necessary then great care will be taken. Physical intervention is not a punishment but a means of care and control in specific circumstances.

Advice and training will be provided for staff through Schoolsafe trainers or the school's Schoolsafe Co-ordinator.

At Hillside, where a pupil regularly presents with difficult and dangerous behaviour, it may be necessary to include the use of physical interventions in his/her Behaviour Support Plan. Any pupil thought likely to require a specific physical intervention will have a risk assessment carried out prior to the physical intervention being used. The use of planned physical interventions will be reviewed regularly.

Unplanned physical intervention will only be used as a last resort and only considered if a pupil is in immediate danger of harming him/herself or others.

Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils

(see Use of Reasonable Force DfE 2013)

It has to be acknowledged that, on occasions, staff may find themselves in unforeseen or emergency situations when they have no option but to use reasonable force to manage a crisis, or to prevent a situation from becoming a crisis.

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 allows staff, who are authorised by the Headteacher to have control and charge of pupils, to use reasonable force to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- committing a criminal offence;

- causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself);
- causing damage to property (including pupil's own property);
- prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Staff who are authorised support pupils with their behaviour at Hillside are Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Learning Support Assistants and Midday Supervisory Assistants. However, Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 does not remove the common law right of any citizen in an emergency to use reasonable force in self-defence, to prevent any person from being injured or his property being damaged.

The Education and Inspection Act 2006 acknowledges that there is no legal definition of “reasonable force” and so it is not possible to set out comprehensively when it is reasonable to use force, or the degree of force it may be reasonable to use. The degree of force should always be in proportion to the consequences it is intended to prevent. When force is used it must be **reasonable, necessary, proportionate and as a last resort.**

Recording and Reporting

Incidents involving the use of force, except those where an agreed physical intervention has been included in the pupil's Behaviour Support Plan, will be recorded by the member of staff concerned (on a Difficult and Dangerous incident form and in the 'Incidents involving Restraint log kept in the Headteacher's office) and reported to a member of the senior leadership team. The parents/carers will be informed of the action taken and the reasons for it.

Post Incident Support

Incidents that require the use of physical force can be upsetting to all concerned and may result in injuries to the pupil or staff. After any such incident both the pupil and members of staff will be given emotional support and basic first aid if required. Medical assistance will be sought for any injuries requiring more than basic first aid. Any injuries sustained will be reported and recorded using the LA Incident Report Form.

Complaints

In the event of the school receiving a complaint about the force used by a member of staff it will be dealt with in accordance with the formal complaints procedures approved by the Governing Body.

Exclusions

At Hillside we pride ourselves on being a caring school with the knowledge, skills and resources to deal with most behaviours. However, in rare cases there will be pupils whose behaviour is so extreme that exclusion from school may have to be considered.

Exclusion is a last measure, generally only taken after advice from other professionals has been sought and acted upon, and all other reasonable steps have been taken. The situation would be such that allowing the pupil to remain in school would be seriously detrimental to the education or welfare of the pupil, or of others.

Only the Headteacher has the power to exclude pupils and will act in accordance with clearly documented criteria, procedures and time scales.

The Governing Body influences the ethos of the school and monitors exclusions. Parents have the right to make representations concerning the exclusion to the LA and the Governing Body.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.