

Halstead Community Primary School

# Physical Intervention & Restraint Policy



Approved by the Full Governing Body

Signed :

Signed :

Steve Grice (Chair of Governors)

Date : 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015

To be reviewed : February 2017

Mr Hawkins (Headteacher)

## 1. Introduction and Rationale

Halstead Community Primary School, through management of its [Behaviour Policy](#), seeks to ensure that both pupils and staff are protected from harm.

The school expects parents to make their own contribution towards seeing that their children do not behave violently or abusively to other children.

However, there may be occasions when teachers have to use physical restraint or a degree of force to protect the child concerned, or other adults. On such occasions the following principles will be adhered to.

## 2. Principles

2.1 As a school, all members adhere to the behaviour strategies agreed in our [Behaviour Policy](#).

2.2 Any physical contact will be reasonable and only used:

- To control and restrain pupils where no other options are appropriate;
- If it is necessary to demonstrate exercises or techniques in the course of PE and sports coaching, when other options are not effective;
- Where a pupil is in distress and needs comforting, teachers will use their own professional judgement to give appropriate support. Staff may engage in calm, quiet dialogue. Ideally there would be an established relationship between staff and pupil. A pupil may find a gently-laid hand or arm around their shoulder comforting. Occasionally very young pupils engaged in an activity or conversation with a seated member of staff may wish to sit on the member of staff's lap to gain close supportive comfort. Occasionally stroking the back or head of a very distraught pupil can have a calming and soothing effect.

NB. Staff should only engage in such comfort in classroom or school area that contains other pupils and adults. Staff should not follow or take a pupil into any other area to be alone.

2.3 **If the previous principles have been applied, reasonable force might be appropriate in the following situations, for example:**

- Pupils fighting.
- A pupil is engaged in, or in on the verge of, committing deliberate damage/vandalism to property.
- A pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play or misuse of dangerous materials or objects (Health & Safety procedures should already have been followed)(see [Health & Safety Policy](#)).
- A pupil is running in a corridor or stairway, or near a glass door, in such a way that he/she might cause an accident likely to injure him/her-self or others.
- A pupil persistently refusing to obey an instruction to leave the classroom.

## Halstead Community Primary School

- A pupil behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting a lesson, e.g. throwing things, threatening behaviour, physically endangering him/herself or others.
- A pupil absconds from a class or tries to leave school, and is seriously at risk if he/she leaves the classroom and/or school.
- If a pupil is endangering other pupils or his/her own safety.

### **3. Forms of acceptable physical intervention**

- A member of staff physically interposing between pupils, or blocking a pupil's path.
- It may involve touching/holding/pulling/leading a pupil by the arm, or shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back.

### **4. Forms of acceptable restraint**

- All staff will be shown the recommended method to restrain a pupil who is out of control.
- If acceptable intervention by an adult fails, then the Head Teacher or another member of the Senior Management Team should be sent for.

### **5. Unacceptable forms of physical intervention**

Teachers should not use physical force or restrain in the following ways, as it could lead to serious injury or a counter-claim of assault by the pupil or their parents.

- Holding a pupil around the neck, collar, or any other way that might restrict a pupil's ability to breathe.
- Slapping, punching, or kicking a pupil.
- Twisting or forcing limbs against a joint.
- Tripping up a pupil.
- Holding a pupil by the hair.

Staff should always avoid touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered indecent.

### **6. Complaints**

In the event of a dispute about the use of force leading to an investigation, this will be carried out by the Head Teacher or the Governing Body.

Any investigation must be carried out carefully, thoroughly, and impartially. The information gathered must be fairly and accurately recorded.

## Halstead Community Primary School

If it is necessary for a disciplinary panel or court to decide whether the use and degree of force is reasonable in the circumstances, they will have regard to this policy about the use of physical intervention and restraint, and whether it has been followed, and the need to prevent injury, damage, or disruption in considering all the circumstances of the case.

These situations can involve considerable distress for the member of staff concerned. If the member of staff is a member of a trades union or professional association, then that body should be contacted for advice, support, and representation.

If acceptable restraint has to be used, all present must fill in the Incident Record Form (Appendix 1). The Head Teacher must be informed and sign the Incident Record Form. All incidents will be logged in the Head Teacher's office.

### **7. Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed every two years by :

- The Staff of Halstead Community Primary School
- The Governors (Strategy Team)

Following the review the policy will go to the full Governing Body for ratification.

Halstead Community Primary School

**Appendix 1**

**INCIDENT RECORD FORM**

<b>NAME OF PUPIL:</b>
<b>DATE &amp; TIME OF INCIDENT:</b>
<b>WHERE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE:</b>
<b>STAFF &amp; PUPILS PRESENT (NAMES):</b>
<b>REASON PHYSICAL INTERVENTION/RESTRAINT USED:</b>
<b>ACTIVITY TAKING PLACE:</b>
<b>WHAT PRECEDED INCIDENT:</b>

Halstead Community Primary School

**PUPIL'S BEHAVIOUR THAT LED TO INCIDENT:**

**WHY INTERVENTION WAS NECESSARY:**

**WHAT TEACHER SAID TO PUPIL:**

**STEPS TAKEN TO DEFUSE SITUATION:**

**DEGREE OF FORCE USED/HOW WAS IT APPLIED/FOR HOW LONG:**

**PUPIL'S RESPONSE & OUTCOME OF INCIDENT:**

Halstead Community Primary School

**DETAILS OF ANY INJURY SUFFERED BY ANYONE PRESENT:**

**WHEN AND HOW WAS PARENT INFORMED, AND ANY DETAILS OF DISCUSSION:**

**WHO INFORMED PARENT:**

**NAME OF PERSON COMPLETING FORM:**

**SIGNATURE** .....

**DATE** .....

**HEAD TEACHER'S SIGNATURE**

**NAME** .....

**DATE:** .....