

Appendix to Positive Behaviour Management Policy

Physical Intervention with Pupils

The Head Teacher delegates responsibility for physically intervening to staff members, following the guidance set out below.

Physical intervention:

- should only be used if there is an immediate danger to pupils, staff or school property.
- should be used as a last resort, once de-escalation strategies have been attempted.

Handling a pupil:

- Any force used in a physical intervention must be of minimum strength and duration in order to deal with the immediate danger. As soon as the situation is safe, cease the physical intervention.
- Physical intervention (or “positive handling”) should be supportive to the child.
- Never hold the child by the neck, collar, ear or hair. Do not slap, punch, kick or trip. Do not twist limbs, force limbs against the joint or hold a pupil face down on the ground.
- Avoid contact with breasts, bottoms and genital areas.
- Talk to the child: explain what you are doing and explain that physical contact will cease as soon as they calm down.
- Speak calmly and reassuringly: your role is to de-escalate the situation and reduce the likelihood of harm.
- Send for help as soon as you can, using another pupil to do so if necessary.
- Keep yourself and other pupils safe – it might be better to remove other pupils than to try to physically intervene with the aggressor.
- Do not put yourself at risk by confronting pupils who are bigger or stronger than you, who are armed or who otherwise pose a threat to your safety.

All incidents or physical intervention must be reported to the head teacher or designated teacher within one day, and should be written up as soon as possible. Seek advice following an incident from a senior colleague and/or your trade union representative.

If a physical or verbal assault has occurred, the council health and safety form should also be completed. This is available on the intranet.

Copies of the full school policy, together with copies of the LA’s policy and DfES circular 10/98 are available from the head teacher.



Heathfield Schools' Partnership Record of Physical Intervention

Name(s) of pupil(s) involved directly in incident:

Name(s) of adult(s) involved in incident, or present:

Brief description of what led to the use of physical intervention and what other steps were taken to deescalate the situation:

Brief description of how the pupil was restrained:

Which senior member of staff was informed after the event?

Were parents informed of the incident?

Name of adult making report:

Signed:

Date:

Please pass this form to the Head Teacher as soon as possible after the incident.