



Positive Touch Policy

For Academies within TAMAT

This Positive Touch Policy was approved and adopted by the
Trust Board: Aut 2025
It will be reviewed: Aut 2026
Version v25.0

Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy

The Policy is best placed within the context of the school's Behaviour Policy; it will be part of a graduated response, and needs to be agreed in consultation with staff, governors, parents/carers, and pupils. It also connects to, and should be consistent with, policies on Health and Safety, Child Protection and safeguarding and Equal Opportunities.

1. Introduction

At TAMAT we believe that pupils need to be safe, know how to behave, and know that the adults around them are able to manage them safely and confidently. For a very small minority of pupils the use of restrictive physical intervention may be needed, and, on such occasions, acceptable forms of intervention will be used.

*[*Schools may wish to add their own statement here.]*

The majority of pupils behave well and conform to the expectations of our school. We have responsibility to operate an effective behaviour policy that encompasses preventative strategies for tackling inappropriate behaviour in relation to the whole school, each class, and individual pupils.

All the school staff need to feel able to manage inappropriate risk and behaviour, and to understand how challenging behaviours might be communicated. They need to know what the options open to them are, and they need to be free of undue worries about the risks of legal action against them if they use appropriate physical intervention. Parents need to know that their children are safe with us, and they need to be properly informed if their child is the subject of a Restrictive Physical Intervention, including the nature of the intervention, and the rationale for its use.

2. Definition of 'restrictive physical intervention'

The Law allows for teachers and other persons authorised by the Head teacher to use Restrictive Physical Intervention to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following: -

- committing a criminal offence
- injuring themselves or others
- causing damage to property
- engaging in any behaviour that is prejudicial to maintain the good order and discipline at the school

"Restrictive Physical Intervention" is the term used by the DCSF to include interventions where bodily contact using force is used. It refers to any instance in which a teacher or other adult authorised by the Head teacher has to, in specific circumstances, use "reasonable force" to control or restrain pupils. There is no legal definition of "reasonable force". However, there are two relevant considerations:

- the use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of an incident warrant it;
- the degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent.

The definition of physical force also includes the use of mechanical devices (e.g. splints on the pupil prescribed by medical colleagues to prevent self-injury), forcible seclusion or use of locked doors. It is important for staff to note that, although no physical contact may be made in the latter situations, this is still regarded as a Restrictive Physical Intervention.

Physical intervention must be carried out within the framework laid down below:

- The use of physical intervention should only ever be as a last resort following the application of other appropriate strategies such as withdrawing from the situation, de-escalation and the instruction to stop.
- Where physical intervention is being used for the safety of staff, children and young people, the best interest of the individual must be the fundamental consideration.
- The scale and nature of any physical intervention must be proportionate to both the risk presented or behaviour by the individual and the nature of the harm they might cause or suffer.
- The minimum use of force for the least amount of time must be used, and when appropriate a phased withdrawal at the earliest opportunity.
- Use of physical interventions will be appropriately reported, recorded and monitored using systems established by TAMAT and reported annually to the Local Authority via the safeguarding audit.
- Staff that may be required to carry out physical interventions will receive training in working to the practice guidelines on the use of appropriate physical intervention and in appropriate techniques of behaviour management, which reduce the need for physical intervention. The Local Authority will offer training and development that complies with the standards and requirements of the policy, national and local guidelines (including the British Institute of Learning Difficulties (BILD) Code of Practice).

3. When the use of restrictive physical interventions may be appropriate in *(name)* school

Restrictive Physical Interventions will be used when all other strategies have failed, and therefore only as a last resort. However, there are other situations when physical management may be necessary, for example in a situation of clear danger or extreme urgency. Certain pupils may become distressed, agitated, and out of control, and need calming with a brief Restrictive Physical Intervention that is un-resisted after a few seconds.

The safety and well-being of all staff and pupils are important considerations. Under certain conditions this duty must be an over-riding factor.

Who may use restrictive physical intervention in *(name)* school.

The following staff listed below are authorised by the Head teacher to have control of pupils, and **must** be aware of this Policy and its implications.

We take the view that staff should not be expected to put themselves in danger, and that removing pupils and themselves is the right thing to do. We value staff efforts to rectify what can be very difficult situations and in which they exercise their duty of care for the pupils.

Names of authorised staff

*Each school needs to compile a list here of staff groups eg MTAs, TAs, Caretaker etc. and **in addition** the Head teacher may give temporary authorisation to others eg parent helpers on a trip, centrally employed support staff.*

4 Planning for the use of restrictive physical interventions in *(name)* school

Staff will use the minimum force needed to restore safety and appropriate behaviour. The principles relating to the intervention are as follows: -

- Restrictive Physical Intervention is an act of care and control, not punishment. It is never used to force compliance with staff instructions.
- Staff will only use it when there are good grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary and in the pupil's and/or other pupil's best interests.
- Staff will take steps in advance to avoid the need for Restrictive Physical Intervention through dialogue and diversion and at the level of understanding of the child or young person.
- Only the minimum force necessary will be used to prevent severe distress, injury, or damage.
- Staff will be able to show that the intervention used was in keeping with the incident.
- Every effort will be made to secure the presence of other staff, and these staff may act as assistants and/or witnesses.
- As soon as it is safe, the Restrictive Physical Intervention will be relaxed to allow the pupil to regain self-control.
- A distinction will be maintained between the use of a one-off intervention which is appropriate to a particular circumstance, and the using of it repeatedly as a regular feature of school policy.
- Escalation will be avoided at all costs, especially if it would make the overall situation more destructive and unmanageable.
- The age, understanding, and competence of the individual pupil will always be taken into account.
- In developing Individual Education/Behaviour Plans, consideration will be given to approaches appropriate to each pupil's circumstance.
- Procedures are in place, through the pastoral system of the school, for supporting and debriefing pupils and staff after every incident of Restrictive Physical Intervention, as it is essential to safeguard the emotional well-being of all involved at these times.

5. Acceptable forms of intervention in *(name)* school

There are occasions when staff will have cause to have physical contact with pupils for a variety of reasons, for example:

- to comfort a pupil in distress (so long as this is appropriate to their age);
- to gently direct a pupil;
- for curricular reasons (for example in PE, Drama etc);
- in an emergency to avert danger to the pupil or pupils;
- in rare circumstances, when Restrictive Physical Intervention is warranted.

In all situations where physical contact between staff and pupils takes place, staff must consider the following:

- the pupil's age and level of understanding;

- the pupil's individual characteristics and history;
- the location where the contact takes place (it should not take place in private without others present).

[*Schools may wish to add their own paragraph here, appropriate to their own situation.]

Physical contact is never made as a punishment, or to inflict pain. All forms of corporal punishment are prohibited. Physical contact will not be made with the participants neck, breasts, abdomen, genital area, other sensitive body parts, or to put pressure on joints. It will not become a habit between a member of staff and a particular pupil.

6. Developing a positive handling plan in *(name)* school

If a pupil is identified for whom it is felt that Restrictive Physical Intervention is likely, then a Positive Handling Plan will be completed. This Plan will help the pupil and staff to avoid difficult situations through understanding the factors that influence the behaviour and identifying the early warning signs that indicate foreseeable behaviours that may be developing.

The plan will include:

- Involving parents/carers and pupils to ensure they are clear about what specific action the school may take, when and why.
- A risk assessment to ensure staff and others act reasonably, consider the risks, and learn from what happens.
- A record needs to be kept in school of risk reduction options that have been examined and discounted, as well as those used.
- Managing the pupil, strategies to de-escalate a conflict, and stating at which point a Restrictive Physical Intervention is to be used.
- Identifying key staff who know exactly what is expected. It is best that these staff are well known to the pupil.
- Ensuring a system to summon additional support.
- Identifying training needs.

[*A school may also need to take medical advice about the safest way to hold a child with specific medical needs.]

7. Guidance and training for staff

Guidance and training is essential in this area. We need to adopt the best possible practice. In *(name)* school this is arranged at a number of levels including:

- Awareness for governors, staff and parents.
- Behaviour management for all staff.
- Managing conflict in challenging situations for all staff.
- Specific training on Restrictive Physical Intervention techniques for all staff.

8. Complaints

It is intended that by adopting this policy and keeping parents and governors informed we could avoid the need for complaints. All disputes that arise about the use of force by a member of staff will be dealt with according to Surrey's Child Protection and Safeguarding policies.

PUPIL INCIDENT REPORT FROM (This can be put as a log on CPOMs but the following information needs to be included)

Part A (to be completed for all incidents involving unruly or unacceptable behaviour by pupils)

Name of school:	
Pupil name:	
Staff name and status:	
Incident date/time/place:	

Nature of incident (tick boxes as appropriate)

Vandalism		Absconding	
Bullying		Substance abuse	
Physical control		Non-compliance	
Isolation		Serious disruption	
Time Out		Other (please state)	

ANTECEDENTS: (events leading up to incident)	
BEHAVIOUR: (how did the pupil respond, describe what actually happened)	
CONSEQUENCES: (how did the staff intervene, how did the child respond, and how was the situation resolved)	
NAMES OF THOSE INVOLVED: (staff and pupils)	
NAMES OF WITNESSES: (staff and pupils)	
SIGNATURE OF REPORT COMPILER:	

PART B (to be completed if the use of restrictive physical intervention has occurred) **WHAT DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES WERE USED PRIOR TO PHYSICAL CONTROLS: (tick the appropriate box below)**

Defusing		Time out offer	
Deflection		Time out directed	
Distraction take up time		Changes of task	
Appropriate humour		Choices	
Proximity control		Limits	
Verbal advice/support		Consequences	
Ruler reminder		Another member of staff	
Hurdle help			
Planning ignoring		Other (please state)	

JUSTIFICATION FOR USE OF PHYSICAL CONTROLS:

(tick the appropriate box below)

To prevent/interrupt:

A criminal offence	
Injury to pupils/staff/others	
Serious damage to property	
Disruptive behaviour	
Pupil absconding	
Other (please state)	

NATURE OF RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTION USED: (Insert language relevant to training received and include estimate of duration of use of physical intervention)

Standing		sitting		Kneeling		Floor (prone)		Floor (supine)	
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RESPONSE AND VIEW OF THE PUPIL: (this field must be completed)

DETAILS OF ANY RESULTING INJURY: (injury to whom and action taken as a result, e.g. first aid, medical treatment)

ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

Name of senior person noted:		Time/date	
HEATHERACHER'S COMMENTS:			

SIGNATURE OF HEADTERACHER:	DATE: