



Inkersall
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Touch and the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy

This policy relates to all pupils in Inkersall Spencer Academy including those in EYFS

The Local Governing Body of Inkersall Spencer Academy adopted this policy in Sept 2024.

1. Introduction

At Inkersall Spencer Academy 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.

This will only be done by the fully trained staff in school and by consultation with a member of senior staff.

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 have an understanding of what and 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 Principal 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 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 Principal 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 make it necessary to intervene.
- 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.

It is an offence to lock a person in a room without a court order except in an emergency, for example where the use of a locked room is a temporary measure while seeking assistance. Where there is significant danger in a situation, if possible contain rather than restrain.

3. When the use of restrictive physical interventions may be appropriate in Inkersall Spencer Academy

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 Inkersall Spencer Academy

The staff who have been trained in the use of restrictive physical intervention are authorised by the Principal 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.

4. Planning for the use of restrictive physical interventions in Inkersall Spencer Academy

Staff will use force, which is reasonable in the circumstances that are believed to be necessary 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 reasonable grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary. The safety of all children at the school and the staff team will be balanced with the best interests of the child.
- 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
- Force will only be used where it is necessary as a last resort and then in a way which is proportionate to the risk in the immediate circumstances.

- 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 or an Individual Education/Behaviour Plan
- escalation will be avoided, 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

Acceptable forms of intervention in Inkersall Spencer Academy

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)

Other forms of physical contact can be made as long as it is age appropriate and relevant to the circumstance of the incident. Before any physical contact is given the adults should first consider whether it is age / gender appropriate.

Physical contact is never made as a punishment. 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.

Elevated levels of risk are associated with:

- holding someone who is lying on the floor or forcing them onto the floor
- any procedure which restricts breathing or impedes the airways

6. Developing a positive handling plan in Inkersall Spencer Academy

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:

- Any medical conditions or known injuries which the child has which could preclude the use of certain physical interventions or inform a team about decisions they make during an incident.
- 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

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

Guidance and training for staff

Guidance and training is essential in this area. We need to adopt the best possible practice. In Inkersall Spencer Academy 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 - all staff
- specific training on Restrictive Physical Intervention techniques - relevant 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 Spencer Trust complaints procedure.

9. Physical Intervention :: Procedures for Planned Interventions

1 The person responsible for authorising staff to use restrictive physical intervention as part of a structured and planned intervention within this school is the Principal.

- 2 The person responsible for ensuring that all planned use of restrictive physical intervention is risk assessed is the Principal.
- 3 Copies of all risk assessments are held on the electronic CPOMs log and are reviewed after every use of force and termly.
- 4 The people who are authorised to use reasonable force in planned restrictive physical interventions are the ones recently trained. No other person should engage in a planned intervention.
- 5 Only those trained in appropriate techniques within the last twelve months may be authorised. The person responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided, including regular updates, is the Principal.
- 6 Training records are held in the safeguarding file.
- 7 Those not involved in risk assessment but whose roles include the supervision of children may use reasonable force in an emergency unplanned intervention where it is necessary to prevent a serious injury from occurring.
- 8 Every use of restrictive physical intervention is to be reported the same day to the Principal or the deputy in charge if the Principal is off- site. The Principal or Vice Principal will ensure that a parent of the child who has had force used against them is notified that day through a telephone call or on a 1:1 basis.
- 9 In addition, the details of each use of physical intervention must be recorded on the Pupil Incident Report Form that will be placed on the electronic CPOMs log. The person leading the planned or unplanned intervention must complete this form. The Principal will review every use of physical intervention.
- 10 After each use of physical restraint the Principal will carry out a planned review and provide support for all parties.
- 11 No other member of staff, who are not trained will be allowed to carry out physical restraint, unless in an emergency situation where it is absolutely necessary to do so.
- 12 The school office manager will be responsible for reporting all injuries to the Trust Health and Safety Manager who will then report on to the HSE if necessary.
- 13 Complaints will be heard through the Trust's complaint procedure – see policy.
- 14 If first aid is needed then a fully trained first aider will be called to deal with the situation as per school protocol.

Individual child or young person risk assessment

A plan for assessing and managing foreseeable risks for children or young people who are likely to need Restrictive Physical Intervention

PART A

School:

Name of Child:

Class group:

Name of teacher:

Name of parents/Carers:

Name of Support Service Member/s:

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Identification of Risk

Describe the foreseeable risk (i.e. what specific behaviours have occurred)

Is the risk potential or actual? (i.e. has this happened before)

List who is affected by the risk

Assessment of Risk

In which situations does the risk occur?

How likely it is that the risk will arise? (i.e. how often has it happened before)

If the risk arises, who is likely to be injured or hurt?

What kinds of injuries or harm are likely to occur?

How serious are the adverse outcomes?

Assessment completed by:

Signature: Date:.....

PART B

Agreed Risk Management Plan and School Risk Management Strategy

Focus of Measures

Measures to be employed

Level of risk

Proactive interventions to prevent risks:

Early interventions to manage risks:

Reactive interventions to respond to adverse outcomes:

Agreed by:

(Parent/carer)

(Child - if appropriate)

(Principal)

(Class teacher)

(Support Service Member/s).....

Date:

Communication of Plan and School Risk Management Strategy

Plans and strategies shared with:

Communication Method:

Date Actioned:

Staff Training Issues

Identified training needs

Training provided to meet needs

Date training completed

PART C

Evaluation of Plan and School Risk Management Strategy

Measures set out

Effectiveness in supporting the child

Impact on risk

Proactive interventions to prevent risks

Early interventions to manage risks

Reactive interventions to respond to adverse outcomes

ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Plans and strategies evaluated by: Title:

.....Date:

Pupil Incident Report Form

This form is now on CPOMS.