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Physical Intervention Policy

We pride ourselves within the Emmaus Federation on providing a safe learning environment for our pupils. Sometimes, some of our children may get anxious or agitated - we will do our best to help pupils to calm down using communication skills, distraction techniques and removing triggers where possible.

However, there may be times when children need more help to regulate - this may require staff to use physical support to ensure the pupil's own safety, the safety of other pupils and staff, or that property is not seriously damaged. This can require physical interventions. Within the Federation, staff receive safer physical handling training to manage challenging behaviours, which may resort in physical intervention. A significant number of our teaching and non-teaching staff are trained in the use of safer physical handling.

Within the Federation we adhere to Lincolnshire County Council's policy entitled 'Positive Handling and Intervention Guidance' (approved by the Executive Committee 2002), a copy of which is kept in school and to which staff, governors and parents can refer.

The use of physical intervention is clearly sanctioned in certain circumstances by Section 550A of the Education Act 1996: The use of force to Control and Restrain Pupils. Circular 10/98 also provides guidance. The latest DCSF Guidance (November 2007) now has replaced Circular 10/98 and a copy of this is available to all staff, governors and parents / carers of pupils if required.

Physical Restraint

Training for staff will be renewed on a three-year rolling programme with new staff being given the opportunity of joining centrally held training so that they are versed in the principles of safer physical handling and therefore in a position to fully support colleagues if ever the situation arose that this support was necessary.

Physical interventions will only be used as a last resort, for the minimum period of time once all other reasonable strategies have been exhausted.

The following situations or the prevention of the following situations occurring are the only occasions when a physical intervention is permitted.

- Immediate danger to self
- Disruption to immediate environment
- Fighting
- Assault/Attempted Assault
- Disruption to class
- Potential damage to property
- Threat of absconding
- Immediate danger to /staff/pupils/visitors
- Threats verbal/physical

Members of staff must always carry out their own personal risk assessment before embarking on a physical intervention and should always seek the assistance of other staff trained in safer physical handling to support/assist them.

Every incident of positive handling will be recorded by the staff involved on CPOMS as soon as possible after the incident, **on the day on which it occurred**. Parents/carers of the pupil will also be informed.

Date of approval: October 2023

Review date: October 2026

Signed:

Claire Collett
Executive Headteacher

Jean Powell
Chair of Governors