



Transforming Lives

The Hub Alternative Provision Centre

POLICY FOR PHYSICAL INTERVENTION WITH STUDENTS

The Hub Management Committee and Staff of The Hub Alternative Provision Centre fully recognise the importance of safeguarding children and play a full and active part in protecting students from harm.

This policy should be used in conjunction with The Hub Alternative Provision Centre Safeguarding Policy and procedures and the Behaviour Management Policy.

PURPOSE

This policy is drawn up under Section 550A of the 1996 EDUCATION ACT to clarify the powers of teachers and other staff who have lawful control or charge of students to **prevent** students committing a crime, causing injury or damage to themselves, other people or property or causing disruption.

Physical intervention should only be used in an emergency and when all other strategies have failed.

BY WHOM

All members of staff who have successfully completed TEAM TEACH Training*

WHEN

- Self defence;
- Serious risk of injury to the student;
- Serious risk of injury to other students/adults;
- Serious risk of damage to property, if this endangers the safety of the student/others.

HOW

By use of 'reasonable force', this should be the minimum to achieve the desired result.

In all cases the force used must be **PROPORTIONATE** to the seriousness of the behaviour or the consequences it is intended to prevent.

WHERE

This policy applies when a member of staff is on the school premises or has charge of a student elsewhere e.g. fieldtrip or activity out of school.

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY INTO PRACTICE

Before intervening physically a member of staff should, wherever practicable, tell the student who is misbehaving to stop and what will happen if he or she does not. The teacher or other person should continue to communicate with the student throughout the incident and make it clear that physical contact will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary.

Physical intervention should be used as a last resort; other strategies must be tried first.

Examples of behaviour likely to lead to restraint:

- Physical attack by a student on another student or adult;
- Deliberate damage to property which could result in harm to the student/others e.g throwing objects at/through a window;
- Student behaving in a way which places others or themselves at risk e.g. pushing, tripping on a staircase, preventing a student running into a busy road.

Physical intervention is **NOT** a punishment and should not be used as such.

ASSISTANCE should be sought, whenever possible. The student should be told that assistance has been sent for.

Any other students who are at risk should be removed from the vicinity.

Where possible, the use of physical intervention should be avoided in a one-to-one situation – adult witnesses are important.

Physical intervention should not lead to injury: Staff should **NEVER**:

- hold a student around the neck or collar/hood, or in a way that might restrict breathing;
- slap, punch or kick;
- twist or force limbs against a joint;
- trip;
- hold or pull by the hair, ear;
- hold a student face down on the ground.

N.B. Staff must avoid holding/touching a student in any way that may be considered indecent.

Sometimes a member of staff should **not** intervene in an incident without help, for example when dealing with a physically large student or if the member of staff believes he or she may be at risk of injury. In these circumstances the member of staff should remove other students who may be at risk and summon assistance from colleagues. The member of staff should inform the student that he or she has sent for help.

***In extreme situations, where a student 's behaviour is likely to cause serious harm to another person, staff who have not completed TEAM TEACH training may use physical intervention if this is the only way to prevent the student harming someone else. No member of staff should feel obliged to intervene physically, however. All staff MUST send for immediate assistance, stressing the serious nature of the situation.**

In all cases where physical intervention has been used, the member of staff MUST make a written report of the incident, listing witnesses, and make this available to the Headteacher the same day. In addition they must enter the incident in the Physical Intervention Log Book (situated in the General Office).

The Headteacher will contact parents to explain the reason for the physical intervention.

Approved by The Hub Management Committee – February 2016

Signed by Sheriden Hutchinson-Jones

Chair of The Hub Management Committee