



Date of this review: Summer 2016

Date of next review: Summer 2019

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 All pupils at Wendover are expected to work with each other and staff in a cooperative and respectful manner. Pupils are expected to follow simple instructions from staff in a timely manner so that the school is able to operate effectively and safely.
- 1.2 In rare cases, there may be a need for a member of staff to physically intervene to ensure the safety of a pupil(s), member of staff and / or equipment, or to ensure that the learning of pupils is not negatively affected.

## 2. Objectives

- 2.1 Provide a clear policy and procedure relating to physical intervention.
- 2.2 Ensure that the need for physical intervention remains low within the school through the promotion of the school values and by employing the school behaviour policy effectively.

## 3. Use of Reasonable Force in Schools

- 3.1 The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
- 3.2 Force is usually used either to control or restrain, eg guiding a pupil by the shoulder through to restraining a pupil to prevent injury to themselves or others or leaving the school grounds/building. It may also be used to remove a disruptive child from the classroom. Physical intervention will never be used as a punishment.
- 3.3 Physical intervention will usually be the last resort; good use will be made of the processes in the behaviour policy, restorative meetings protocol and our positive relationships with pupils.
- 3.4 The decision to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and will normally be trained staff (the school has a number of appropriately trained staff in order that safe methods are employed to reduce the likelihood of injury to pupil or adult).
- 3.5 When intervening, only the minimum amount of force should be used. Staff should:
  - Tell the pupil what behaviour is expected of them
  - Seek assistance from another adult (preferably an appropriately trained adult)
  - Tell the pupil that you will have to physically intervene
  - Talk to the pupil about what is happening and reassure them – encourage them to make the right decision
  - Seek to use physical intervention for the minimum amount of time necessary
  - Use additional adults appropriately to reduce the risk of injury to the pupil or staff member

## 4. Identified Pupils

- 4.1 Pupils that may require the use of physical intervention as part of our ongoing behaviour management in school will be identified.
- 4.2 A risk assessment will be completed for identified pupils and parents will be consulted as part of this process. Consent will be gained from the parent where physical intervention is likely to be used.

## 5. Recording Incidents & Further Actions

- 5.1 All incidents requiring physical intervention will be reported to the Headteacher (in the absence of the Headteacher the incident will be reported to the DSL). A debrief will be completed with staff to record the reasons for intervention and the actions taken.
- 5.2 Parents of pupils concerned will be informed and a review of risk will be completed with them. Further action may be taken under the school's behaviour policy.
- 5.3 External agencies will be informed as appropriate.
- 5.4 A restorative meeting will take place after the event to restore relationships.

## 6. Complaints and Allegations

- 6.1 Any complaint or allegation of misconduct made against a member of staff arising from an incident should be put in writing to the Headteacher using the school's complaints procedure.
- 6.2 When a complaint is made the onus is on the person making the complaint to prove that his/her allegations are true – it is not for the member of staff to show that he/she has acted reasonably. Suspension is not an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force.

## 7. Roles and Responsibilities

- 7.1 Governing Body: Review policy every 3 years and monitor the use of physical intervention through the behaviour report to governors.
- 7.2 Headteacher: Review and log incidents of physical intervention; ensure appropriate staff are trained; ensure that risk assessments are in place for identified pupils and that parents are informed about provision & incidents.
- 7.3 Staff: Ensure that policy is followed and correct methods are employed to reduce the likelihood of injury.

## Wendover CE Junior School

### **Related Policies / Documents:**

DfE "Use of Reasonable Force" July 2011

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice/f0077153/use-of-reasonable-force--advice-for-school-leaders-staff-and-governing-bodies>

School Complaints Procedure

Behaviour Management Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy