|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Hambleton Primary Academy  **2024-2025** | A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated | Physical Intervention Policy |
| Approved by: | Holly Wood - Headteacher | Date: September 2024 |
| Last reviewed on: | September 2024 | |
| Next review due by: | September 2025 | |

**Introduction**

This policy outlines the guidelines and procedures for using physical intervention when dealing with challenging behaviours at Hambleton Primary Academy. Our school is committed to creating a safe environment, utilizing a TeamTeach approach that prioritises positive behaviour support and de-escalation techniques. Physical intervention is used only as a last resort to protect individuals or property.

**Definitions**

* Physical Intervention: Any form of physical force used to restrict the free movement of a person's body.
* De-escalation: Verbal and non-verbal techniques used to calm a situation and prevent the need for physical intervention.
* Reasonable Force: The minimum amount of force necessary to achieve the desired outcome of preventing harm to self or others.
* Serious Harm: Significant physical injury, psychological distress, or damage to property.

**Prevention and De-escalation (TeamTeach Emphasis)**

* Proactive Strategies: All staff receive training in TeamTeach principles, including:
  + Understanding triggers and antecedents to challenging behaviours
  + Positive behaviour support and proactive classroom management
  + Effective communication skills
  + Graduated de-escalation techniques appropriate to the setting and population served
* Individualised Plans: For individuals with known behaviour challenges, a team will develop a plan that includes preventative strategies, TeamTeach de-escalation techniques, and may specify approved physical intervention techniques only if necessary to protect safety.

**Authorised Physical Intervention Techniques (TeamTeach)**

* Staff will use only TeamTeach-trained and approved techniques. Techniques emphasize safety and control, never punishment.
* Staff must maintain current TeamTeach certification to be authorized for physical intervention use.

**When Physical Intervention is Justified (TeamTeach)**

* Physical intervention aligned with TeamTeach principles will only be used:
  + To prevent an individual from causing immediate serious harm to themselves or others.
  + To prevent serious damage to property.
  + When all other de-escalation TeamTeach interventions have been exhausted or are deemed inappropriate to the situation.

**Use of Force (TeamTeach)**

* The minimum amount of force necessary, as dictated by the situation and TeamTeach training, will be used to achieve the desired, safe outcome.
* Physical intervention will be discontinued as soon as the individual is no longer a threat to themselves or others.
* Staff are prohibited from using physical intervention techniques that inflict pain, restrict breathing, or are likely to cause injury. These are never in line with TeamTeach principles.

**Documentation and Reporting**

* Incident Reporting: Any use of physical intervention must be immediately documented with a detailed report that includes:
  + Description of events leading up to the incident
  + De-escalation techniques attempted
  + Specific physical intervention techniques used
  + Duration of the intervention
  + Individuals involved and any injuries sustained
  + Post-incident follow-up
* Reporting to Authorities: Incidents will be reported according to any local/national regulations or as outlined in contracts with partner agencies.
* Reporting to Parents/Guardians: Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible following an incident.

**Review and Debriefing**

* Incident Review: A team will review each incident involving physical intervention to:
  + Determine if the intervention was justified
  + Identify any alternative strategies that could have been used
  + Update individual behaviour plans as needed
* Staff Support: Staff involved in physical intervention will be offered debriefing and support.

**Training (TeamTeach Emphasis)**

* Initial and ongoing TeamTeach training is mandatory for staff authorized to use physical intervention techniques. This includes:
  + This physical intervention policy
  + Positive behaviour support
  + TeamTeach de-escalation techniques
  + Approved physical intervention techniques (with professional TeamTeach certification)
  + Documentation and reporting procedures

**Policy Review**

The next scheduled review date for this policy is **September 2025.**