



Physical Intervention Policy

Lytchett Matravers Primary School

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Physical Intervention Policy for Lytchett Matravers Primary School**1. Introduction**

Lytchett Matravers Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students, staff and visitors. This policy outlines the preventative measures taken to manage the risk of physical intervention and the circumstances under which reasonable force through physical intervention may be used as well as the procedures staff will follow. The primary aim of our school is to create a positive and safe learning environment which fosters mutual respect in accordance with the Department for Education (DfE) guidelines.

The policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies and guidance relating to interaction between adults and pupils such as the SEND Policy, Safeguarding Policy and the Behaviour Policy.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure that physical intervention is only used when necessary and in a manner that is safe, respectful and proportional to the situation.
- Protect the rights and dignity of all students which promotes a culture of respect and understanding for the school and wider community.
- Provide clear guidelines for staff on the use of physical intervention.
- Establish a framework for the recording and reporting of incidents involving physical intervention.

3. Legal Framework

This policy is based on the following legislation and guidance:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006: This act allows teachers and other school staff to use reasonable force to prevent students from committing an offence, causing injury to themselves or others, damaging property or disrupting good order and discipline.



- Use of Reasonable Force in Schools Guidelines: (DfE, 2013) The DfE provides detailed guidance on the use of reasonable force in schools, which is aimed at ensuring that physical intervention is only used when necessary and in a manner that minimises risk to all parties involved.
- Children Act 1989
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010

4. Definition of Physical Intervention

Physical intervention refers to any method of physically restricting the movement of a person to prevent harm to themselves, others or property. This includes holding using a temporary stabilising position and using an escort which involves physically moving a student against their will from an area.

Situations Where Physical Intervention May Be Used

Physical intervention is always the last option however it may be necessary in situations where a student:

- Is at risk of causing harm to themselves or others.
- Is causing significant disruption that threatens the safety of others.
- Is causing or is likely to cause damage to property.
- Needs to be prevented from leaving the premises in a situation where their safety is at risk.

Other forms of physical contact:

There are occasions when physical contact, other than reasonable force, with a pupil is proper and necessary.

Examples of where touching a pupil might be proper or necessary:

- Holding the hand of the child at the front/back of the line when going to assembly or when walking together around the school.
- When comforting a distressed pupil.
- When a pupil is being congratulated or praised.
- To demonstrate how to use a musical instrument.
- To demonstrate exercises or techniques during PE lessons or sports coaching; and
- To give first aid

(DfE, Use of Reasonable Force, July 2013)

5. Principles

Lytchett Matravers Primary School follows the following principles of physical intervention:

- Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort when other de-escalation strategies have failed.
- Any physical intervention used will be the minimum amount of force necessary for shortest amount of time to prevent harm.
- Physical intervention will be conducted in a manner that respects the dignity and safety of all involved.
- Staff will receive appropriate training in the use of physical intervention techniques (formal Securicare training).
- All incidents involving physical intervention will be documented and reviewed.
- Continuing the training and development of our staff to better understand and support our pupils.

Pupils attending Lytchett Matravers Primary School and their parents have a right to:

- individual consideration of pupil needs by the staff who have responsibility for their care and protection.
- expect staff to undertake their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the school's policies.
- be informed about school rules, relevant policies and the expected conduct of all pupils and staff working in school.
- expect plans to be designed to achieve outcomes that reflect the best interests of the child whose behaviour is of immediate concern and others affected by the behaviour requiring intervention.
- be informed about the school's complaints procedure.

Good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure good order in our school. It is recognised that most pupils in our school respond positively to the discipline and control practised by staff. This ensures the well-being and safety of all pupils and staff in school. It is also acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, staff may need to act in situations where the use of reasonable, proportionate and necessary force may be required.

Lytchett Matravers Primary School acknowledges that physical techniques are only a small part of a whole setting approach to behaviour management, and as such as are deemed a last resort.

6. Minimising the need to use force

Lytchett Matravers Primary School is dedicated to creating a calm and safe environment for all its pupils. This can be evidenced in the school's behaviour policy.

When a pupil is displaying unsafe behaviour, the school will follow a procedure of supportive reactive strategies to safeguard the pupil and others. Once an unsafe behaviour has occurred the school will create a Behaviour Response Plan (BRP) to prevent the use of physical intervention. A BRP will outline the most appropriate and effective strategies of de-escalation that staff will use to support the pupil and minimise the need for the use of physical intervention. We will, where possible, include the pupil in creating this plan to ensure the pupil is aware of how staff will support



them to co-regulate. The school will also share the plans and seek the input and agreement from parents or carers.

Alongside a BRP, the school will conduct a risk assessment of the challenging behaviour to successfully minimise the risk to the pupil, peers and adults at the school.

a. Preventative Measures

In supporting a pupil displaying unsafe behaviour, staff will:

- Employ de-escalation strategies and positive behaviour support.
- Use clear communication and establish a calm environment.
- Seek assistance from other staff when needed.

b. During Physical Intervention

Staff will always:

- Use the least intrusive method possible.
- Continuously assess the situation to determine the necessity and appropriateness of the intervention.
- Ensure that the intervention is proportionate to the level of risk and is discontinued as soon as the risk is reduced.

c. After a Physical Intervention

Staff will:

- Ensure that all parties involved are safe and provide medical attention if necessary.
- Support the recovery of the pupil which focuses on their emotional wellbeing and psychological security.
- Document the incident in detail using the Trust's incident reporting form.
- Inform parents or guardians about the incident as soon as possible.
- Review the incident with involved staff and students to learn from the situation and prevent future occurrences.
- Report the use of physical intervention to Hamwic Education Trust.

7. Training

All staff members will receive training on using de-escalation strategies and alternatives to physical intervention.

Some members of staff will receive two-day initial training from SecuriCare accredited trainers informing them of further de-escalation techniques and the proper use of medically assessed physical intervention techniques. The physical intervention techniques are based on a blend of psychological support and biomechanics which allow trained members of staff use physical intervention in a safe manner. Trained members of staff complete an online theory module and a

two-day physical skills session where they are assessed by accredited trainers. SecuriCare members of staff are also reassessed in their physical skills competencies each year.

About SecuriCare

SecuriCare is a specialist training company supporting organisations in preventing and managing school related violence, challenging, disruptive, and other hazardous behaviours.

SecuriCare is certified by BILD-ACT (RRN Standards) to provide Preventing and Managing Challenging and Hazardous Behaviour courses, is accredited by the Institute of Conflict Management (ICM) and are ISO 9001:2015 (UKAS) certified.

More information about Securicare can be found on their website: <https://www.securicare.com/>

8. Monitoring and Review

The school will always review the use of physical intervention to ensure it is compliant with the principles and lawful use of reasonable force. Should any member of staff, pupil, parents or careers feel that the use of force was not in line with the guidelines laid out within in this policy the school will investigate the incident.

Lytchett Matravers Primary School are committed to reducing the need for physical intervention and will continuously review the provision for pupils who present unsafe behaviour.

To effectively monitor and review the use of physical intervention the school will:

- Maintain a log of all incidents involving physical intervention.
- Regularly review incidents to identify patterns and areas for improvement.
- Conduct an annual review of the physical intervention policy to ensure it remains current and effective.
- Seek feedback from staff, students, and parents on the effectiveness of the policy and procedures.

Complaints and Allegations

At Lytchett Matravers Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that all physical interventions are carried out safely, proportionately and in line with statutory guidance. We recognise that the use of physical intervention can be distressing for pupils, staff and families, and we are committed to transparency and accountability in all such instances.

Raising a Concern

Any parent, carer, pupil or member of staff who has a concern or complaint about the use of physical intervention is encouraged to raise it as soon as possible. Concerns can be raised with the Headteacher, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or another senior member of staff.

Complaints may be made:

- In person
- In writing
- By phone or email

All concerns will be treated seriously and handled in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy and Safeguarding Policy.



Recording and Investigation

All incidents involving physical intervention are recorded in the school's incident log and reviewed by a senior leader. If a complaint is made, the school will:

- Review the written record of the incident
- Speak with the staff and pupils involved
- Consider any available CCTV or witness statements
- Ensure that the investigation is fair, impartial and timely
- Where appropriate, the school may involve the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) guidance.

Support for Pupils and Staff

We are committed to supporting the wellbeing of all individuals involved in incidents of physical intervention. This includes:

- Providing debriefing and emotional support for pupils
- Offering reflective practice and supervision for staff
- Engaging parents and carers in follow-up conversations

We aim to learn from every incident and ensure that our practices remain safe, respectful and in the best interests of our pupils.

Any concerns regarding the use of force should be shared with the school immediately and can be recorded through the complaints procedure or through the process outlined in the whistle blowing policy.

[Policies | Lytchett Matravers](#)

9. Roles and Responsibilities

All stakeholders of Lytchett Matravers Primary School are responsible for ensuring that the school is a calm and safe environment for all students. Therefore, the following stakeholders have these responsibilities.

Governing Body:

- Approve the physical intervention policy.
- Ensure the policy is effectively implemented.

Headteacher:

- Implement the policy and ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training.
- Oversee the documentation and review of incidents.

Staff:

- Follow the policy and procedures outlined.
- Attend training and refreshers as required.
- Document and report all incidents of physical intervention.



10. Communication of the Policy

This policy will be:

- Made available to all staff, students and parents.
- Included in staff induction materials and training sessions.
- Reviewed regularly and updated, as necessary.

11. Conclusion

Lytchett Matravers Primary School is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students. The use of physical intervention will always be a last resort, used only when necessary to protect the safety and well-being of students and staff.

Policy Review:

This policy will be reviewed annually and ratified by the Governing Body.

Next review due: December 2026.

