

# The Meadows School



## Policy for the use of Physical Intervention

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## Amendment Register

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## **1. Rationale**

This policy has been adopted and written in relation to Physical Intervention Policy at the Meadows School and should be read in conjunction with the LAs Policies and Procedures and any DFE Policy, Statements and Guidelines.

## **2. Introduction**

A small minority of pupils attending The Meadows School may present severe challenging behaviours at times throughout the day. It is a legal requirement for schools to implement a policy regarding the use of physical intervention (Education Act 1996 Section 550A)

This policy clarifies the role of teachers and other staff who have the training and knowledge to intervene if pupils are causing harm to themselves, to others or public property.

Physical interventions do occur at the Meadows School but these interventions form a small part of the management of actual or potential aggression and occur within the context of a specific behaviour strategy and as a last resort to prevent any harm being caused to the pupil, staff or property. At all times physical intervention is safe, effective, acceptable and transferrable for all involved.

## **3. School Ethos**

The Meadows School is a friendly, supportive environment fostered to enable pupils to develop self-help and independence. Positive reward systems are used effectively to support behaviour strategies at the appropriate level for all learners to access.

Pupils who display challenging behaviours are often operating outside of the code of behaviour and as such require additional strategies as part of a Behaviour Support Plan.

## **4. Aims of this policy**

- 4.1. To develop a consistent approach to managing unwanted behaviours
- 4.2. To ensure that staff at The Meadows School understand the legal requirements affecting physical interventions
- 4.3. To increase confidence and competence of all those who deal with crisis situations
- 4.4. To ensure that all pupils who present challenging behaviour requiring physical intervention are treated at all times with dignity and respect
- 4.5. To raise awareness amongst Governors, parents/carers, staff and multi-agency professional colleagues of school policy and procedure.

## **5. Objectives of this policy**

- 5.1. To provide staff with ongoing training and guidance in Managing Actual and Potential Aggression (MAPA). This includes safe and legal physical intervention techniques.
- 5.2. MAPA is approved by BILD (British Institute of Learning Difficulties)
- 5.3. To encourage our pupils to develop appropriate interaction through our whole school ethos, values, policies, and curriculum; class teaching, environment, expectations, routines, EHC's, behaviour support plans and intervention.
- 5.4. To ensure interventions for part of a behaviour management strategies and are shared/agreed with parents/carers.
- 5.5. To ensure staff are familiar with, and follow, procedures for the reporting/recording of the use of physical intervention.
- 5.6. To ensure that staff view physical interventions as the last resort when pupils are presenting behaviours that could harm themselves, others and/or causing damage to property.

## **6. Health and Safety**

This policy operates within the context of the Schools Health and Safety Policy. Procedures for reporting injuries should be followed and risk assessments made where appropriate.

The health and safety of all is the prime concern of this aspect of our work and consideration must be given to the care, safety, welfare and support of all concerned.

## **7. Equal Opportunities**

The policy operates within the context of the schools Equal Opportunities policy

## **8. Procedures at The Meadows School**

- 8.1. Staff will identify those pupils who may require physical intervention
- 8.2. The Student Support team will identify pupils who may require physical intervention to an advanced and emergency level
- 8.3. Staff will collect information about the behaviours and positive attributes of the pupil
- 8.4. Staff will monitor the effectiveness of the safety and support plan throughout the year, this will be reviewed termly and given to the student support team to sign off
- 8.5. Staff should only use physical intervention as a last resort to make a crisis situation safe
- 8.6. Where staff feel they are unable to deal with the incident they should hand over to responsibility of support to another trained member of staff

- 8.7. Staff will, where appropriate, talk to the pupil involved explaining what is happening, why it is happening, and what the pupil can do to reduce the conflict. This will be individual to pupils level of understanding
- 8.8. Staff will re-establish therapeutic rapport with the pupil once the incident is over, in an appropriate way for the pupils needs
- 8.9. The staff members will take time out after the incident
- 8.10. Staff will report in writing any physical interventions that have taken place, this is done online using sleuth software, which enables accurate analysis of incidents
- 8.11. The effectiveness of an unplanned/serious physical intervention will be evaluated between staff involved and the student support team

### **Reporting to parents and carers**

Serious incidents that require physical intervention must be shared with the parent/carer. The opportunity to discuss the incident will be offered to enable parents/carers to understand the intervention. The student support team or class teacher will record the communication with parents using safeguard online software and set up a meeting if requested. Procedures for reporting injuries should be followed and risk assessments made where appropriate.

### **9. Policy success criteria**

9.1. Staff will:

- 9.11. Be trained in MAPA techniques on a rolling programme and will implement physical interventions only as a last resort to support pupils
- 9.12. Once trained, be confident and competent to manage actual and potential aggression
- 9.13. Follow the reporting procedures regarding interventions
- 9.14. Reduce the number of injuries to staff and to pupils

9.2. Pupils will:

- 9.21. As a last resort be restrained and supported as safely as possible. This is for the least amount of time, with the least amount of restriction as possible. Pupils will never be restrained for longer than 10 minutes
  - 9.22. Receive care and support at all times when presenting challenging behaviours
  - 9.23. Have a detailed behaviour support plan, monitored, reviewed and amended as appropriate
  - 9.24. Make progress towards managing their own behaviours
- See also the Meadows School behaviour policy

### **10. Policy evaluation and review**

This policy will be reviewed in line with specific training received in physical intervention and evaluated annually as a minimum requirement.