

The Park College Physical Intervention Policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Equality Act 2010

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

Behaviour Policy
Communication Guidelines
ASD Handbook
Health & Safety Policy
Code of Conduct for staff.

Behaviour and Autism

Students with autism may display challenging behaviour at times. This can impact on their quality of life and can prevent access to learning. Careful behaviour support can prevent anxiety and stress and has a very high priority at The Park College. All staff receive regular training in behaviour support and are supported by the leadership team and other specialists.

Underlying Principles

We aim to help our students develop self-awareness, self-control and awareness of others. We avoid physical interventions wherever possible and focus on preventive strategies. On occasions where behaviour support requires physical interventions the safety and dignity of all concerned must be maintained.

Preventive Strategies:

- Appropriate staffing levels matched to student support needs
- Staff are well trained in the teaching of students who can present challenging behaviours
- Ongoing Team Teach training for all staff
- Focus on de-escalation
- Avoidance of situations that are known to trigger challenging behaviours
- Behaviour Support Plans matched to each student's needs
- An engaging and interesting curriculum allowing students to enjoy meaningful activities which include opportunities for choice and a sense of achievement
- Talking to students about ways they prefer to be supported when they pose a significant risk to themselves or others
- High degree of communication support
- High degree of visual support
- Strategies to support students with ASD
- Working collaboratively with families to use consistent behaviour management strategies in home and school

Restrictive Physical Intervention:

Restrictive Physical Intervention involves the use of force to control a person's behaviour and can mean using bodily contact or changes to a person's environment.

This could be through:

- Bodily contact such as holding a student's hands to prevent them from hitting someone
- Environmental change such as moving to a different place in the college.

Restrictive Physical Intervention is only acceptable when used to prevent:

- Injury to the student
- Injury to others
- Severe damage to property.

Restrictive Physical Intervention should only be used where:

- Other strategies have been used to try to de-escalate the behaviour
- The risks of using physical intervention are judged to be lower than the risk of not doing so
- Staff have been trained and are authorised by the school to carry out physical intervention, and are aware of the student's risk assessment and behaviour support plan.

It must be remembered that:

- Physical intervention is an exceptional rather than routine method of management
- Only a minimum amount of force must be used – that is the minimum needed to avert danger – and for the shortest period of time
- Any physical intervention should maintain student dignity.

Procedures after each incident:

The Principal must be informed immediately. Any incident of restrictive physical intervention must be logged on CPOMS as soon as possible after it has occurred. The CPOMS log will show:

- The date and time of the incident
- What led up to the incident
- What strategies were used to avoid physical intervention
- The reason for using physical intervention
- A description of the physical intervention
- The duration of the physical intervention
- Student/s involved
- Staff involved
- How the incident was resolved
- Any student injury
- Any staff injury
- Any follow up
- When carers have been told and by whom.

The incident will be reviewed by the Principal and director responsible for Safeguarding. Only they can close the incident record on CPOMS. Summaries are provided to directors / governors in termly meetings.

The Principal will join the team de-brief to discuss strategies and offer advice. All incidents are monitored regularly. Incidents are analysed to identify improvements to policies and practices.

Families will always be informed by the Principal or Lead Tutor if physical intervention has been used.

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed annually in line with the Behaviour and Safeguarding Policies.

The policy will be reviewed by the Principal.

This policy has been updated in accordance with:

HM Government: Reducing the Need for Restraint and Restrictive Intervention June 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812435/reducing-the-need-for-restraint-and-restrictive-intervention.pdf

Behaviour in schools: Advice for headteachers and school staff September 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/651d42d86a6955001278b2af/Behaviour_in_schools_guidance.pdf

Positive Environments Where Children Can Flourish – October 2021:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/positive-environments-where-children-can-flourish/positive-environments-where-children-can-flourish>