



# Belmont CP School

## Physical Intervention Policy

### **1. Introduction**

This policy is based on Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and current Department for Education (DfE) guidance on the use of reasonable force.

It applies to all staff working with pupils and outlines the school's approach to physical contact, physical intervention and restraint.

Belmont CP School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all pupils. Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort, where it is reasonable, proportionate and necessary to prevent harm. Any use of force may constitute a safeguarding matter and will be managed in line with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

### **2. Links to Other Policies**

This policy should be read alongside:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- SEND Policy and Accessibility Plan
- Health and Safety Policy
- Equality Policy

### **3. Aims**

**This policy aims to:**

- Provide clear guidance on the use of physical intervention
- Ensure staff understand their responsibilities and legal powers
- Promote safe, consistent and proportionate responses
- Minimise the need for physical intervention through effective behaviour management

#### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

- Headteacher: overall responsibility for implementation, monitoring and reporting
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): oversight of safeguarding concerns
- Staff: follow policy, use de-escalation strategies, record incidents
- Governors: monitor policy effectiveness

At Belmont CP School, physical intervention will normally only be carried out by staff trained in Team Teach, except in emergency situations.

#### **5. Underpinning Principles**

Everyone in the school community has the right to:

- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Learn and work in a safe environment
- Be protected from harm

The school is committed to balancing the rights of individuals with the duty of care to maintain safety and good order.

#### **6. Definition of Physical Intervention**

Physical intervention (positive handling) involves the use of reasonable force to prevent a pupil from:

- harming themselves
- harming others
- causing serious damage to property
- seriously disrupting good order

Any use of force must be:

- reasonable
- proportionate
- necessary
- used for the shortest possible time

## **7. Preventing the Need for Physical Intervention**

The school promotes a calm, supportive environment to reduce the likelihood of incidents.

This includes:

- effective behaviour management strategies
- appropriate staffing and training
- identifying triggers and risk factors
- use of de-escalation techniques
- individual support plans (e.g. BSPs/PSPs)

Physical intervention will only be used when these strategies have been unsuccessful and there is a risk of harm.

## **8. Appropriate Physical Contact**

Appropriate physical contact is part of everyday school practice (e.g. guiding a pupil, providing comfort or support).

Such contact must:

- be appropriate to the age and needs of the pupil
- be in the pupil's best interests
- take place in a safe and open environment

It should never be intrusive or open to misinterpretation.

## **9. Use of Physical Intervention**

Physical intervention will only be used when necessary to:

- prevent injury
- prevent serious damage to property
- prevent a pupil leaving a safe environment where they may be at risk
- maintain good order and discipline

Staff will:

- use the minimum force necessary
- act in accordance with training

- seek assistance where possible

## **10. Planned Physical Intervention**

Where a pupil is known to present risks, a planned approach will be set out in:

- Behaviour Support Plans (BSPs)
- Pastoral Support Programmes (PSPs)
- Risk assessments

These will be shared with relevant staff and, where appropriate, parents/carers.

## **11. Emergency Physical Intervention**

Emergency physical intervention may be required where a situation is unforeseen or escalates rapidly.

In such cases, staff must:

- act in accordance with their duty of care
- use the minimum force necessary
- seek assistance where possible

Following any incident, the situation will be reviewed and risk assessments updated as appropriate.

## **12. Withdrawal**

Withdrawal may be used to support a pupil in calming down by removing them from a situation to a safe, supervised space.

This will:

- be proportionate and appropriate
- support de-escalation
- not be used as a punishment

## **13. Support Following Incidents**

Pupils and staff involved in incidents will be supported through:

- time to calm and recover

- opportunities to reflect and debrief
- access to pastoral or professional support where needed

#### **14. Injuries**

Every effort will be made to avoid injury. However, where injury occurs:

- first aid will be provided
- parents/carers will be informed
- incidents will be recorded

#### **15. Recording**

All incidents involving physical intervention must be recorded on CPOMS as soon as possible and before the end of the working day.

Records should include:

- the reason for the intervention
- what happened before, during and after
- the level of force used
- any injuries or damage

The Headteacher will review all incidents.

#### **16. Monitoring**

Incidents are monitored regularly (at least termly) to:

- ensure procedures are followed
- identify patterns or trends
- inform support and planning

An annual summary is shared with governors.

#### **17. Staff Training and Support**

- Staff receive appropriate training

- New staff are inducted into this policy
- Staff involved in incidents are offered support and debrief opportunities

## 18. Health and Safety

Staff must report any medical or physical conditions that may affect their ability to carry out interventions.

All injuries or incidents must be recorded in line with school procedures.

## 19. Visits and Off-Site Activities

Risk assessments will be carried out for all visits. Consideration will be given to:

- pupil needs
- staffing levels
- availability of trained staff

## 20. Complaints and Whistleblowing


Concerns about the use of physical intervention will be managed in line with:

- the Complaints Policy
- Safeguarding procedures
- Staff disciplinary procedures

Staff are expected to report any concerns about practice.

## 21. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required.

Ratified by governors at their meeting on	06 May 2026
Signed	
Review Date	May 2027