

St Matthew's RC High School

Physical Intervention Policy



Reviewed: March 2017

To be reviewed: March 2019

Physical Intervention Policy

This policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils within St Matthew's RC High School.

It is designed to explain the school's arrangements for care and control. Its contents should be made available to all parents/carers and pupils. This policy has been developed in response to the recommendations of Circular 10/98 'The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils' issued following the implementation of the Education Act 1996 (Section 550A). This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies (e.g. behaviour, anti-bullying, harassment) listed in the Staff Handbook. The Senior Management Team is responsible for the implementation and review of this policy.

PURPOSE

Good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure good order in our school. It is recognised that the majority of 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 take action in situations where the use of reasonable force may be required.

This policy seeks to ensure that staff in school clearly understand their responsibilities in taking appropriate measures where reasonable force is required. It is essential that staff are well-informed and appropriately trained to deal with these difficult situations and understand fully the rationale and implications of the guidance given in Manchester LEA's 'Physical Intervention in Schools' document. This policy should also be explained to pupils and made available to parents on request.

PRINCIPLES

All staff and pupils at St Matthew's have a right to:

- be treated with respect and dignity;
- work in a safe and healthy environment and be protected from harm;
- receive adequate information, support and training.

All staff and pupils at St Matthew's should:

- follow the school's code of conduct, rules and policies.

Parents of pupils attending St Matthew's have a right to:

- expect staff to undertake their duties and responsibilities in accordance with school policies;
- be informed about school rules, policies and expected conduct for all;
- be informed of the school's complaints procedure.

APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT

Staff at St Matthew's have a responsibility to act at all times in a manner which reflects positively on their professional status.

Whilst it is recognised that there are situations in which appropriate physical contact occurs in the school setting between staff and pupils, it must be understood that to undertake any form of physical control places staff in a vulnerable situation. It can only be justified according to those circumstances described in this policy. Staff therefore have a responsibility to seek alternative strategies wherever possible in order to prevent the need, for physical intervention.

Reasonable force may only be permissible when it is necessary to prevent a pupil from:

- injuring themselves or others;
- causing serious damage to property;
- committing a criminal offence;
- engaging in any behaviour which prevents good order and discipline being maintained in the classroom or elsewhere.

where no other form of control is available and where it is necessary to intervene.

AUTHORISED STAFF

In line with LEA guidance on physical intervention all relevant teachers and teaching assistants at St Matthew's RC High School are authorised, within the content of this Policy and the legal position indicated above, to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils.

All peripatetic teaching staff and visiting LEA staff will work within the policy of their own Service which should reflect that of the LEA and that of St Matthew's. Whilst on school premises they will be expected to follow the procedures of the school and report any incidents in which they are involved in accordance with their Service policy.

TRAINING SUPPORT

It is the duty of the Headteacher to ensure adequate training is provided for all authorised staff, teaching and non-teaching, in order to operate this policy. Responsibility for co-ordinating this training will be the responsibility of the Headteacher.

Members of staff will not be expected to undertake the use of reasonable force without knowledge of the school's policy. New staff will be fully briefed to authorise their participation. Training will include clarification of the circumstances when physical intervention should be used.

Staff involved in incidents of physical intervention will be offered the opportunity to access personal support, including counselling, at their request to the Headteacher.

RECORDING & REPORTING

As soon as is reasonably practicable following an incident in which physical force has been used, the member of staff involved will inform the Headteacher of other (designated person) following this up with a written report, in line with Section 7 of the LA's Physical Intervention document (a report proforma is shown in Appendix A to this document). Staff involved will be "debriefed" as soon as is appropriate after the incident by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

St Matthew's RC High School will keep an up-to-date record of all incidents where reasonable force has been used in the school's confidential incident book folder.

All parents, carers and where appropriate social works will be informed as soon as possible.

Further guidance on informing parents/carers can be obtained from the LA's Physical Intervention document (7.7).

**Approved by the Full Governing Body on 29 March 2017.
To be reviewed in March 2019.**

APPENDIX A

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION IN SCHOOLS

Physical Intervention (Restraint) Record of Incident

Name of Pupil:

Date of Incident:

Ethnicity of Pupil:

1. Names of those involved

Staff:

Others :

2. Time of incident:

Location:

3. Account of incident including events leading up to incident, details of action and how the incident was resolved (include details of restraint method):

4. Follow up actions (advice to carers, support for staff and pupils involved etc):

5. Names of witnesses and attached witness accounts:

6. Record of any injury/damage to property:

NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS / CARERS

Mother at _____ (time) by: phone / visit / letter (delete as appropriate)

Father at _____ (time) by: phone / visit / letter (delete as appropriate)

Other Carer at _____ (time) by: phone / visit / letter (delete as appropriate)

Social Worker at _____ (time) by: phone / visit / letter (delete as appropriate)

(please tick all appropriate boxes)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Headteacher, Deputy, Senior Member of Staff)