



### **School Vision:**

**To encourage and support thoughtful, happy and responsible children with a lifelong passion for learning, within a Christian community**

## **STANWELL FIELDS C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY FOR TOUCH AND THE USE OF RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTION.**

### CO-ORDINATORS RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICY

Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

DATE ORIGINALLY ADOPTED BY GOVERNORS: 2012

**Reviewed and Updated: 10.09.14, 10.09.15, 20.09.16**

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This policy is in keeping with the school's aims, its teaching and learning policy and its policy for equal opportunities.

At Stanwell Fields C of E Primary School we believe that pupils need to be safe, know how to behave, and know that the adults around them are able to manage them safely and confidently. For a very small minority of pupils the use of restrictive physical intervention may be needed, and, on such occasions, agreed forms of intervention will be used.

### INTRODUCTION

The majority of pupils behave well and conform to the expectations of our school. We have responsibility to operate an effective behaviour policy that encompasses preventative strategies for tackling inappropriate behaviour in relation to the whole school, each class, and individual pupils.

Following training by members of the SCC Positive Touch team, staff feel able to manage inappropriate risk and behaviour, and have an understanding of what and how challenging behaviours might be communicated. They know what the options open to them are, and they are free of undue worries about the risks of legal action against them if they use appropriate physical intervention. At Stanwell Fields, parents know that their children are safe with us, and they would always be informed if their child is the subject of a Restrictive Physical Intervention, including the nature of the intervention, and the rationale for its use.

### **Definition of 'restrictive physical intervention'**

The Law allows for teachers and other persons authorised by the Head teacher to use Restrictive Physical Intervention to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following: -

- committing a criminal offence
- injuring themselves or others
- causing damage to property
- engaging in any behaviour that is prejudicial to maintain the good order and discipline at the school

“Restrictive Physical Intervention” is the term used by the DfE to include interventions where bodily contact using force is used. It refers to any instance in which a teacher or other adult authorised by the Head teacher has to, in specific circumstances, use “reasonable force” to control or restrain pupils. There is no legal definition of “reasonable force”. However, there are two relevant considerations:

- the use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of an incident warrant it
- the degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent

### **When restrictive physical intervention may be appropriate in school**

Restrictive Physical Interventions will only be used when all other strategies have failed, and therefore as a last resort. However, there are other situations when physical management may be necessary, for example in a situation of clear danger or extreme urgency. Certain pupils may become distressed, agitated, and out of control, and need calming with a brief Restrictive Physical Intervention that is un-resisted after a few seconds.

The safety and well being of all staff and pupils are important considerations. Under certain conditions this duty must be an over-riding factor.

All staff are authorised by the Headteacher to have control of pupils, but **must** be aware of, and understand this policy and its implications.

We take the view that staff should not be expected to put themselves in danger, and that removing pupils and themselves is the right thing to do. We value staff efforts to rectify what can be very difficult situations and in which they exercise their duty of care for the pupils.

### **Planning for the use of restrictive physical Intervention**

Staff will always use the minimum force needed to restore safety and appropriate behaviour.

The principles relating to the intervention are as follows: -

- Restrictive Physical Intervention is an act of care and control, not punishment.  
**It is never used to force compliance with staff instructions**
- staff will only use it when there are good grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary and in the pupil's and/or other pupil's best interests
- staff will take steps in advance to avoid the need for Restrictive Physical Intervention through dialogue and diversion and at the level of understanding of the child or young person
- only the minimum force necessary will be used to prevent severe distress, injury, or damage
- the incident will be reported to either the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Staff will be able to show that the intervention used was in keeping with the incident. The incident will be recorded, as quickly as is practical by the person (s) involved in the incident book which is located in the Office. This must always be completed within 24 hours of the incident.
- every effort will be made to secure the presence of other staff, and these staff may act as assistants and/or witnesses
- escalation will be avoided at all costs, especially if it would make the overall situation more destructive and unmanageable
- the age, understanding, and competence of the individual pupil will always be taken into account

#### **Agreed forms of intervention used**

There are occasions when staff will have cause to have physical contact with pupils for a variety of reasons, for example:

- to comfort a pupil in distress (so long as this is appropriate to their age)
- to administer first aid and intimate care
- to gently direct a pupil
- for curricular reasons (for example in PE, Drama etc)
- in an emergency to avert danger to the pupil or pupils
- in rare circumstances, when Restrictive Physical Intervention is warranted

In all situations where physical contact between staff and pupils takes place, staff must consider the following:

- the pupil's age and level of understanding
- the pupil's individual characteristics and history

- the location where the contact takes place (whenever possible, it should not take place in private without others present)

If a pupil is identified for whom it is felt that Restrictive Physical Intervention is likely, then a Positive Handling Plan will be completed. This Plan will help the pupil and staff to avoid difficult situations through understanding the factors that influence the behaviour and identifying the early warning signs that indicate foreseeable behaviours that may be developing.

The plan will include:

- involving parents/carers and pupils to ensure they are clear about what specific action the school may take, when and why
- a risk assessment to ensure staff and others act reasonably, consider the risks, and learn from what happens
- a **record** needs to be kept in school of risk reduction options that have been examined and discounted, as well as those used
- managing the pupil, strategies to de-escalate a conflict, and stating at which point a Restrictive Physical Intervention is to be used
- identifying key staff who know exactly what is expected. It is best that these staff are well known to the pupil
- ensuring a system to summon additional support
- identifying extra training needs for key staff

**The following policies also contain important information relating to this policy:**

Equality

Behaviour

Special Educational Needs

Intimate Care

Safeguarding & Child Protection

Safe Working Practice

Whistleblowing

First Aid and administering of medicines