



Newton Hall Infants' School Positive Handling Policy

Reviewed: September 2026

Newton Hall Infants' School POSITIVE HANDLING POLICY

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. This policy outlines how staff at Newton Hall Infants' School create and maintain good order and relationships through positive approaches. These approaches are successful for the vast majority of the time. Effective relationships are developed between staff and pupils and PSHE activities support pupils in managing conflict and coping with feelings. This policy on the use of restrictive physical interventions supplements the main behaviour policy. Both should be read in conjunction with the school SEN policy, the Health and Safety policy, and the Safeguarding policy.

Purpose of this policy

This policy aims to give all members of the school community clear guidance so that any physical intervention that they undertake is carried out in a way that supports the values and principles described above. In particular, it aims to describe the circumstances in which restrictive physical intervention is an appropriate response and how staff at the school will fulfil their responsibilities in those circumstances. The Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring that staff, Governors and parents are aware of the policy. She will ensure that any necessary training/awareness-raising takes place so that staff know their responsibilities. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the DfE Guidance Use of Reasonable Force July 2013 have been used to inform this policy.

Objectives

- To maintain the safety of pupils and staff
- To prevent serious breaches of school discipline
- To prevent serious damage to property

Physical touch

The staff at Newton Hall Infants' School believe that physical touch is an essential part of human relationships. In our school adults may well use touch to prompt, to give reassurance or to provide support in PE.

Examples of where touching a pupil might be proper or necessary are:

- Holding a hand
- Comforting a distressed pupil
- Giving praise or congratulation
- Demonstrating how to use equipment
- Demonstrating or supporting exercises or techniques during Physical Education
- To give First Aid

Staff need to be aware of sensitivities associated with any form of physical contact with students.

Definitions Control means either passive physical contact (standing between pupils) or active physical contact (leading a pupil by the hand or arm).

Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is when staff physically prevent a pupil from continuing what he/she was doing when told to stop or when involved in a fight.

Non-restrictive physical interventions

Either where the child's movement is not restricted or where the child is held supportively but such that they will be released immediately should they so wish. (As already stated touch/physical contact is a small but important and natural part of teacher-pupil relationships in our school.) Restrictive physical interventions prevent, impede or restrict movement or mobility. Reasonable force is used either to control or restrain. Reasonable means using no more force than is needed. All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force.

What the law says: When is restrictive physical intervention permissible?

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a student from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following: a) Committing any offence (or for a student under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil); b) Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of any person (including the student himself); or c) Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Risk assessment

The use of a restrictive physical intervention will be the outcome of a professional judgement made by staff on the basis of this school policy. It is avoided whenever possible and will not be used for staff convenience. Restrictive physical intervention will only be considered if other behaviour management options have proved ineffective or are judged to be inappropriate (or in an emergency situation). Before deciding to intervene in this way, staff will weigh up whether the risk of not intervening is greater than the risk of intervening. Any actions will be carried out with the child's best interests at heart. Physical intervention will never be used to punish a pupil or cause pain, injury or humiliation. Staff are not expected to intervene physically against their better judgement nor are they expected to place themselves at unreasonable risk. In such circumstances, they must take steps to minimise risks. For example, by removing other pupils and calling for assistance. Supply staff will not be authorised to use restrictive physical interventions. Parents and volunteers in the school are not given authorisation. Staff from the local education authority may have their own policies about the care and control of pupils but, whilst on the premises, they will be expected to be aware of, and operate within, the policy of this school.

How staff might intervene

When a restrictive physical intervention is justified, staff will use 'reasonable force'. This is the degree of force warranted by the situation. It will be proportionate to the circumstances of the incident and the consequences it is intended to prevent. Any force used will always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result and for the shortest amount of time. During an incident the member of staff involved will tell the pupil that his or her behaviour may be leading to restraint. This will not be used as a threat or said in a way that could inflame the situation. Staff will not act out of anger or frustration. They will try to adopt a calm, measured approach and maintain communication with the pupil at all times.

The place of restrictive physical intervention within broader behavioural planning. If, through the school's special needs assessment procedures, it is determined that a restrictive physical intervention is likely to be appropriate to help a pupil make progress, a risk assessment will be carried out. If appropriate, an individual positive handling plan will then be drawn up for that pupil (see Appendix A).

This plan will aim to reduce the likelihood of the need for restrictive physical intervention as well as describing how such intervention will be carried out. This plan will be discussed with parents/carers. Before the risk assessment is implemented, any necessary training or guidance will be provided for the staff involved. The Headteacher or SENCo will be responsible for establishing staff needs and for organising necessary training.

Recording and Reporting Significant Incidents

This part of the guidance is statutory. The Governing Body must ensure appropriate procedures are in place for recording and reporting significant incidents where a member of staff has used a restrictive physical intervention on a pupil.

After the use of an unplanned restrictive physical intervention, the following steps will be taken.

- Details of the incident will be recorded by all adults involved immediately on the positive handling incident report form (see Appendix B)
- Recording will be completed within 12 hours whenever possible. Staff will be offered the

opportunity to seek advice from a senior colleague or professional representative when compiling their report.

- Any injuries suffered by those involved will be recorded following normal school procedures
- The Headteacher will check that there is no cause for concern regarding the actions of adults involved. If it is felt that an action has caused or put a child at risk of significant harm the Headteacher will follow the school's child protection procedures and also inform parents/carers.
- Parents/carers will be informed on the day of the incident or as soon as is practicable.
- Parents/carers will be offered the opportunity to discuss any concerns that they may have regarding an incident
- Support/debriefing will be available for adults and pupils who have been involved in any incident involving restrictive physical interventions.

Arrangements for recording and informing parents in the case of a planned restrictive intervention will be followed as agreed beforehand but broadly will follow the same pattern as above. The Senior Management Team will use the records kept to analyse patterns of behaviour and so decide whether responses are being effective.

Complaints procedure

If a complaint is made the school's complaints procedure and guidance on dealing with allegations of abuse by staff will be followed.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The effectiveness of this policy will on going and carried out by the SLT. This policy will be evaluated and reviewed in line with the Behaviour Policy and any new legislation and guidance provided by the DfE.

Policy adopted – Sept 2024

Newton Hall Infants'
School



Positive Handling
Plan

Name:		D.O.B:		Date:	
Triggers/behaviours/situations likely to result in a physical intervention:					
Strategies to be used where possible before a physical intervention					
Chill out time		distraction		State alternative/choices	Praise partial compliance
Give space		Talk calmly		Repeat request	Reassure/success reminder
Give a count		Planned ignoring		Remove stimulus	Go on a message
humour		Verbal advice		negotiation	Contingent touching
Other strategies:					
Preferred handling strategies to be used					
prompting		Escort hold		Hip support	Double wrist hold
Cupped fist hold		Straight arm immobilisation		Seated hold	Kneeling hold
Debriefing process following incident- space to talk through with child if appropriate					

Signed
by
Parent:
Headteacher/DHT/SENCo:
Date:
Review
Date:

All incidents involving the use of force to control or restrain a pupil should be logged using the template below and given to the Headteacher/DHT

Newton Hall Infants' School - Incident Log

Pupil name:	Person completing form:
Details of the incident	
Date:	Time:
Location:	Duration:
Staff involved	
Pupils witnessing the incident:	
Describe behaviour and events leading up to the incident include diversionary tactics used:	
Describe the incident, who was involved, positive handling strategies used, duration of incident and pupil response:	
Describe what happened after the incident, pupil's response, any injuries to pupil, staff or other pupils, damage to property:	
Any additional action taken:	
Pupil view (if relevant):	
List of people who might need to be informed (tick those informed):	
HT	DHT
SENCO	Parent
	LA

