



St. Peter's C.E. Junior School

Stilwell Close, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 6XH.

<i>Policy Number: C/7/May09</i>	<i>Date Agreed: 14th May 2009</i>
<i>Policy Title:</i> PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY	<i>Authorised By:</i> J.H.Divall
<i>Area: Curriculum</i>	<i>Due for Review: May 2011</i>
<p><i>The Governing Body believes that fairness and consistency of judgement is essential to the operation of the school. All members of the school have equality of opportunity to achieve their full potential and will not be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, race, or religion. The Governing Body believes that the school always has to be aware of the potential for unconscious discrimination, to avoid assumptions about individual members of the school based on stereotypes and to use the teaching and learning arrangements actively to encourage everyone to achieve their full potential.</i></p> <p><i>All our policies are consistent with our duty of care to protect our pupils and to provide a learning environment which is safe and healthy.</i></p> <p><i>In all our dealings, we respect the strict code of confidentiality that underpins our school ethos.</i></p>	

Definition and Scope of Physical Restraint

Hampshire guidelines on Physical Restraint state:

"Restraint occurs when a member of staff uses physical force intentionally to restrict a child's movement against his or her will. It should rarely be used."

At St Peter's CE Junior School we believe that restraint should be avoided wherever possible. It is not a substitute for good behaviour management. Other methods of managing the incident will be tried first unless these are deemed to be impractical.

The main reason for using physical restraint is to keep people safe. Restraint may increase the risk of injury to both staff and pupils.

Restraint may be justified to prevent a pupil:

- Injuring themselves or others (e.g. attacking staff or other pupils, or generating a risk of injury through rough play or fighting)
- Damaging property (e.g. deliberate vandalism and where there is a developing risk of injury)
- Absconding, but only if by leaving the premises they would place themselves at risk if they were not to be kept within the school.

Everyone has a right to use reasonable force to prevent an attack against themselves or others. Staff may use reasonable physical restraint under other circumstances, whether on-site or during off-site activities.

Note: The use of restraint to achieve compliance would only be appropriate under exceptional circumstances. If the aim is to establish good order, restraint must actually facilitate the outcome. In many cases restraint is likely to exacerbate the problem.

Using physical contact to punish a pupil or to cause pain, injury or humiliation is explicitly forbidden (Education Act 1966 Section 548-550). Staff are not allowed to restrain:

- Out of anger
- Out of frustration
- In any way which could cause injury to the child.

Physical restraint can take several forms. It might involve staff in:

- Physically standing between pupils
- Leading a pupil by the hand
- Standing in the way of a pupil
- Holding, pushing or pulling

If it is unwise to use restraint, staff should summon support and ensure the safety of other pupils.

The police would be notified immediately if the incident included possession of a weapon or serious injury to a person.

Recording Incidents

The incident must be recorded using a restraint incident form. The report should include:

- Name of pupil(s) involved and when and where the incident took place
- The reason force was necessary
- How the incident began and progressed, etc.
- The pupil's response and the outcome of the incident
- Details of any injury suffered by the pupil, another pupil, member of staff or damage to property.

Involvement with Parents

Parents will be informed promptly and be given the opportunity to discuss the situation verbally or by letter, and will be asked to support the behaviour policy.

The Child

The child will be reinstated in the classroom as soon as appropriate.

The Staff

Appropriate support from the Headteacher will be given to members of staff involved in the incident. The Hampshire Employee Support Line on 01962-846388 is also available.

Playtime and Lunch Time

If a member of staff feels that a child may need restraining, they must seek help from a senior member of staff or another member of school staff.

Practical Strategies and Responses

DO:

- Remain controlled
- Talk clearly and give clear instructions
- Keep talking (calm requests for desired behaviour)
- If a child needs to be removed from a classroom, move with the child towards the classroom entrance, or if outside towards the main office area
- Request help and tell the pupil you are requesting help
- In order to help keep calm, remove an audience where possible
- Remove other people if they are in danger
- Remove potential weapons
- Assume that the child is going to calm down.

DON'T:

- Use confrontational body language
- Engage in prolonged or exaggerated eye contact
- Use confrontational language e.g. *"stop being childish"*
- Use physical intervention unless other non-physical methods or calming have been tried.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the guidelines from Hampshire County Council: "Key Points for Teachers on Physical Management and Restraint."