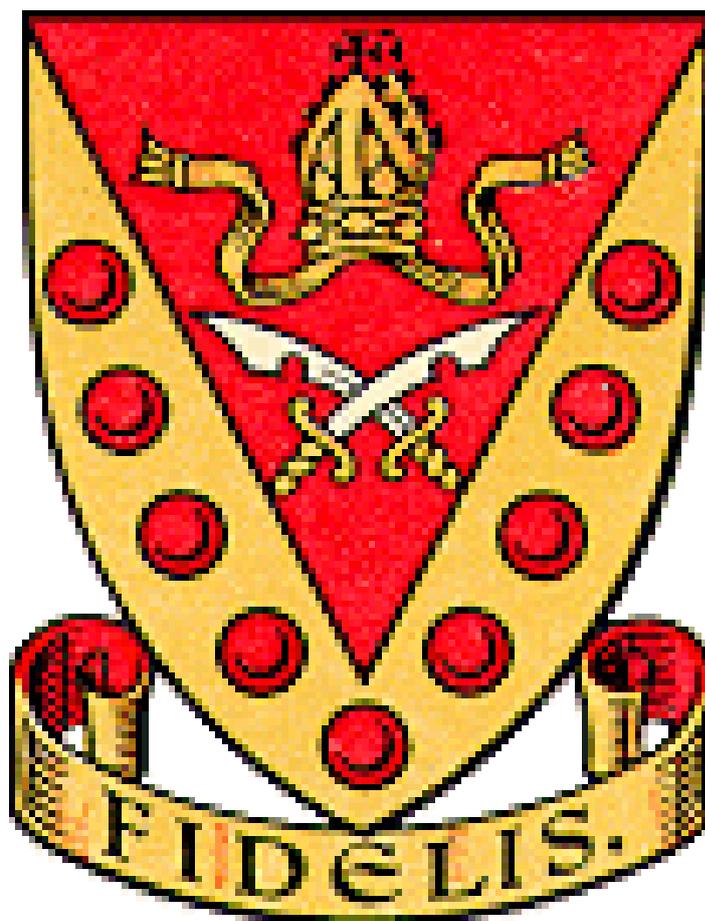


Bishopshalt School

Physical Intervention with Students Policy



Responsibility	Mrs King	Date reviewed	May 2020
Headteacher	Mr McGillicuddy	Next review date	May 2021
Ratified by	Governing Body	Date Ratified	May 2020

1. Bishopshalt School prides itself on the good relationships that members of staff have with the pupils and vice-versa. There is a very friendly atmosphere within the school and although the emphasis within this policy is about good practice in relation to physical intervention, all staff must recognise that the approaches described will generally only be appropriate in very rare circumstances. They are not a substitute for the full range of professional approaches to behaviour management and techniques which minimise or avoid confrontation.

We believe that behaviour and attitude to learning have a major influence on pupils' achievement and that every child is entitled to learn in an environment which is safe, secure and free from distraction. The guiding principles to achieve this are laid out in our whole school document, on Behaviour for Learning Policy (which also underpins this document).

The policy has been updated in response to DFE circular July 2013 "Use of Reasonable Force" issued following the enactment of Section 93 of the 2006 Education and Inspections Act.

2. Aims.

- 2.1 To provide clarification on the use of reasonable force.
- 2.2 To emphasise that the use of physical intervention is:
 - part of a positive care and control approach to pupil discipline and welfare
 - **a last resort** or a necessary expedient option to be used in extreme circumstances
- 2.3 To ensure that all staff or authorised persons who may have to intervene physically with pupils clearly understand the options and strategies open to them.

3. Definitions of Reasonable Force.

- 3.1 The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
- 3.2 Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
- 3.3 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- 3.4 School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.
- 3.5 All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force.
- 3.6 Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.
- 3.7 Staff must NOT use force as a punishment.

4. Strategies for Dealing with Challenging Behaviour

- 4.1 As endorsed in the school's Behaviour Policy, staff consistently use positive strategies to encourage acceptable behaviour and good order.
- 4.2 Every effort will be made to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to student or staff, property, buildings or the environment. Where unacceptable behaviour threatens good order and discipline and provokes intervention, some or all of the following approaches should be adopted.
- Verbal acknowledgement of unacceptable behaviour with an instruction for the student to refrain
 - Further verbal reprimand stating: That this is the second instruction for compliance
 - An explanation of why observed behaviour is unacceptable
 - An explanation of what will happen if the unacceptable behaviour continues. (call a senior member of staff, removal to Focus Room, exclusion)
 - Warning of intention to intervene physically and that this will cease when the student complies, if possible summon assistance from another member of staff or reception.
 - Physical intervention: reasonable force being used to prevent a student harming him or herself, others or property.

5. Practical considerations and Procedures during incidents.

- 5.1 Staff intervening with children will seek assistance from other members of staff at as early a stage as possible since single handed intervention increases the risk of injury to both parties and does not provide a witness.
- 5.2 All staff who become aware that another member of staff is intervening physically with a pupil has a responsibility to provide a presence and to offer support and assistance should this be required.
- 5.3 Where possible staff who have not been involved in the initial confrontation leading up to an incident may be in a better position to intervene or restrain a pupil if this proves necessary.
- 5.4 Pupil's behaviour may be adversely affected by the presence of an audience. Wherever possible the audience will be removed, or if this not possible the pupil will be removed from the audience. The pupil and member of staff will withdraw to a quiet but not private place.
- 5.5 Staff will be aware of the need to tell the pupil being restrained, in a calm and gentle manner that the reason for the intervention is to keep the pupil and others safe. Staff will explain that as soon as the pupil calms down she/he will be released.
- 5.6 The following bullet points will provide useful but not exhaustive advice.

Do where practicable:

- tell the pupil to stop and what will happen if she/he does not
- try to move the pupil away from any peer audience
- attempt to communicate with the pupil throughout the incident
- try to make sure that another adult is present
- ensure additional support is summoned

- make it clear that the physical contact or control will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary
- use a calm and measured approach.

Try not to:

- give the impression you are nervous or out of control
- give the impression you have lost your temper or are acting out of anger or frustration
- give the impression you are trying to punish the pupil
- intervene in an incident without help unless it is an emergency

6. Physical intervention approaches which can be regarded as reasonable in appropriate circumstances.

Staff may:

- physically interpose between pupils
- block a pupil's path *
- hold
- guide
- lead a pupil by the hand or arm
- carry a smaller child away from the difficulty
- shepherd a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back or (in extreme circumstances) using a more restrictive hold.

* Whilst it may be appropriate at times, to passively block a student from leaving the room, if this is not going to deter them, it is advisable to allow them to leave the room and issue an appropriate sanction afterwards. They should only be physically restrained if they pose a threat to themselves or others.

7. Physical intervention approaches which cannot be regarded as reasonable.

Staff may not:

- hold a pupil around the neck or collar, or on any way restrict breathing
- slap, punch or kick or a pupil
- twist or force limbs back against a joint
- trip up a pupil
- hold or pull a pupil by the hair or ear
- hold a pupil face down on the ground
- touch or hold a pupil in a way that might be considered indecent.

8. Reporting and recording incidents involving the use of force.

- 8.1 Should an injury occur as a result of an incident at the school, immediate steps will be taken to secure appropriate medical attention. The Headteacher/Deputy must be informed and the School Accident/Injury book and an Accident and Incident Report Form HS1 should be completed as soon as possible.

8.2 In all cases where force is used the incidents will be reported to the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher and recorded by staff in the incident book in the office of the Deputy Head Pastoral, at the earliest opportunity.

9. Following up an incident.

9.1 Members of staff will usually require support, reassurance and guidance support meeting as soon as possible after the incident.

9.2 A senior member of staff should conduct this process with a support meeting as soon possible after the meeting.

9.2 The pupil involved should be seen by the Deputy Head Pastoral/Head of Year as soon as they can.

9.3 The pupil should be de-briefed and strategies identified in order to use alternative behaviours in the future.

9.4 Parents should be informed.

10. Review of the Physical Intervention with Pupils Policy.

10.1 The Physical Intervention with Pupils Policy will be reviewed annually.

10.3 Person Responsible: Deputy Head, Pastoral