

Hummersknott Academy Trust



59 – Physical Intervention Policy

Review Date: November 2023

Adopted/V1	V2	V3					
March 2014	Nov 2017	Mar 2021					

Hummersknott Academy Trust incorporates Hummersknott Academy and Skerne Park Academy and unless otherwise stated this policy applies to all Academies equally. Each Academy has a bespoke Procedure.

PURPOSE

In November 2007 (**see notes at the end of the document*) the Department for Children, Schools and Families stated clearly for the first time that, ‘...no school should have a policy of no physical contact.’ Hummersknott Academy Trust believes that there are circumstances in which physical contact is necessary in order to meet the emotional, safety and care needs of children. Research has established that physical contact is important in developing relationships. The circumstances depend on the age, understanding and individual needs of the child. The paramount consideration is the welfare of the child. This policy and related procedure is intended to safeguard the welfare of the child and protect staff by describing the circumstances in which physical contact may be necessary, and how staff can act safely and preserve the student/pupil’s dignity.

SCOPE

The Trust takes great pride in achieving excellence through care and the pastoral system is an integral part of the daily running of its Academies. All staff have a duty of care towards all students/pupils and their duty is to ensure that all students/pupils have access to a safe learning environment. This policy has been devised collectively by staff to support and guide understanding of when and what physical contact is appropriate, and how everyone can be kept safe when managing challenging behaviour. This policy should be read alongside each Academy’s Physical Intervention Procedure and Behaviour Management Policy.

This policy aims to ensure that:

- The welfare of the child comes first and takes precedence
- Staff comfort children who are in need of comfort
- Staff care for children who cannot care for themselves
- Staff may touch children to demonstrate physical techniques
- Staff hold children to keep them and others safe
- The dignity for children and staff is maintained

Examples of circumstances in which physical contact may be necessary

- Prompting – a tap on the arm or a pat on the back (Can include ‘communicating physical presence’ - drawing/diverting attention)
- Guiding – leading by the hand, arm or shoulder
- Supporting - assisting with or demonstrating moves in PE, dance and drama, or teaching physical skills through guided action, such as handwriting (for pupils with Special Educational Needs and disability (SEND))
- Reassuring/comforting – an arm round the shoulder, patting and/or stroking the upper arm or back
- Providing intimate care and/or medical treatment – e.g. washing/changing, or contact appropriate as stated in child’s Care Plan
- Providing minor first aid – cleaning cuts and grazes
- Disengaging from a student/pupil’s dangerous, harmful or inappropriate physical contact
- Holding – to prevent a child from hurting somebody or themselves, breaking something, or getting into serious trouble

Staff have a duty and responsibility to keep children safe. Sometimes things happen quickly. In an emergency, providing staff act instinctively, reasonably and in good faith, prioritising the best interests of the student/pupil,

they will be supported. If there is time to think they should conduct a quick risk assessment and try to choose the best option for the child and others at risk (see Associated Resources below). Staff will conduct a 'dynamic risk assessment' of any situation and do not always need to make a physical intervention. They may decide to wait, call for help, move objects or remove other children from the situation. This is a professional judgement.

Staff have the legal power to stop a child from hurting people, damaging property, committing an offence or causing serious disruption (see Associated Resources below). Whenever force is used it should be the minimum necessary to achieve the desired result, i.e. in the circumstances it should be reasonable, proportionate and necessary. In almost every case a range of de-escalation strategies will be attempted before restrictive physical intervention is considered.

This policy links with values 3 – Nothing but the best for all, 4 – Taking Responsibility, 5 – Foundations for Future Success and 8 – Moral Compass, of Hummersknott Academy Trust's Vision and Values.

RESPONSIBILITY

This policy will be reviewed and updated where necessary by the Vice Principal of Student Support at Hummersknott Academy, and approved for adoption by the Board of Directors.

PUBLICISING THE POLICY

A copy of this policy and related procedure will be available on each Academy's website and the X Drive/intranet where applicable. Staff will be advised of amendments to this policy via the Staff Bulletin/Briefing and are expected to familiarise themselves with the content.

POLICY STATUS

This is a non-statutory policy.

ASSOCIATED RESOURCES

**Guidance on the Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions for Staff Working with Children and Adults who display Extreme Behaviour in Association with Learning Disability and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorders (2002)*

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/g/guidance%20on%20the%20use%20of%20restrictive%20physical%20interventions.pdf>

Guidance on the Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions for Pupils with Severe Behavioural Difficulties (2003)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/behaviourpolicies/f0077153/use-of-reasonable-force>

Link to Searching Guidance

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/f0076897/screening>

Link to Dealing with allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff – guidance for local authorities, head teachers, school staff, governing bodies and proprietors of independent schools

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice/f0076882/ensuring-good-behaviour-in-schools/allegations-of-abuse-against-staff>

Ministry of Justice advice on self-defence (when published) and Home Office PACE codes

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/operational-policing/pace-codes/?view=Standard&pubID=810826>

Guidance on behaviour and discipline in schools

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/munro/behaviour%20and%20discipline%20in%20schools%20guide%20for%20headteachers%20and%20school%20staff.pdf>

Use of reasonable force in schools

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/u/use%20of%20reasonable%20force%20advice%20for%20headteachers%20staff%20and%20governing%20bodies.pdf>