



POSITIVE HANDLING AND PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY

Responsible: Governing Body & SLT

Agreed:

To be reviewed: Annually (or in event of incident review/legislation change)

Reviewed:

1. Introduction

St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and staff. We believe every child is uniquely valued, and our role is to nurture their growth in a safe, respectful and supportive environment. Our Christian values of respect, compassion, and responsibility guide how we respond when children experience difficulty regulating their behaviour.

This policy sets out our approach to positive handling and physical intervention, reflecting:

- Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006
- DfE guidance *Use of Reasonable Force* (2013)
- Draft revised guidance *Use of reasonable force and other restrictive interventions in schools* (DfE consultation, 2024–25)
- Local authority safeguarding and behaviour protocols
- Our Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding Policy

From **September 2025**, schools will have a **statutory duty** to record and report to parents all **significant incidents** involving the use of force. This policy anticipates and incorporates that requirement.

2. Aims and Objectives

- To promote a calm, safe, and caring Christian community where all can flourish.
- To prevent and de-escalate challenging behaviour wherever possible.
- To use physical intervention only as a last resort, when the risks of not intervening outweigh the risks of intervening.
- To ensure any use of force is proportionate, necessary, and in the best interests of the child.
- To ensure incidents are recorded, monitored, and used to inform future practice.

3. Positive Behaviour Support

We believe prevention is better than reaction. Staff will:

- Build positive relationships with children and families.

- Use early intervention strategies, including distraction, humour, and removal of audience.
 - Recognise and respond to early warning signs.
 - Work with parents and external professionals to support children with identified needs.
 - Create Positive Handling Plans for children where risk is foreseeable.
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4. What is Physical Intervention?

Physical intervention (reasonable force) means using physical contact with the intention of restricting movement. Examples include:

- Bodily contact (e.g. blocking a child's path, guiding with minimal force, or holding using approved techniques).
- Environmental adjustments (e.g. closing a door to prevent access to an unsafe area).

Unacceptable practices include: holds that restrict breathing or blood flow, holds involving pain compliance, or any action taken in anger.

5. Circumstances When Intervention May Be Used

Physical intervention may only be used when necessary to:

- Prevent harm to the child or others.
- Prevent serious damage to property.
- Maintain the safety and good order of the school.
- Prevent a child from committing a criminal offence.

All staff must apply the **last resort principle**: if de-escalation is possible and effective, physical intervention must not be used.

6. Principles for Use

When physical intervention is necessary:

- Use the **minimum force** for the **shortest duration** possible.
 - Clearly communicate to the child what is happening and why.
 - Involve another adult wherever possible.
 - Stop immediately once the child is calm or no longer poses a risk.
 - Ensure dignity, respect, and safeguarding remain central.
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7. Staff Training

- Only staff trained in approved techniques are authorised to carry out restrictive physical interventions.
- Our preferred training provider is **React**, whose accredited programmes cover de-escalation, safe handling, and post-incident practice.
- Training records are maintained and updated regularly.

- Additional training will be provided for staff working with children who have a Positive Handling Plan.
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8. Recording and Reporting

- All **significant incidents** of physical intervention must be recorded on **CPOMS**, which serves as the school's incident log, within 24 hours.
 - "Significant incidents" include any intervention beyond minimal contact to guide a child safely, or where a child, staff member or witness experiences distress, discomfort or injury.
 - Parents/carers must be informed **on the same day** where possible.
 - A CPOMS record must include:
 - Events leading up to the incident.
 - Strategies attempted before intervention.
 - The type of intervention used.
 - Duration and people involved.
 - Outcome, including any injuries.
 - A copy of the record will be shared with parents, in line with the September 2025 statutory duty.
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9. Post-Incident Support

- Children and staff involved will be offered immediate reassurance, first aid if required, and follow-up emotional support.
 - Debriefing will take place within 48 hours to reflect, learn, and update plans.
 - Positive Handling Plans may be revised in light of the incident.
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10. Monitoring and Review

- SLT will regularly monitor incidents of physical intervention to identify patterns and reduce recurrence.
 - Governors will receive anonymised data on incidents as part of safeguarding oversight.
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11. Related Policies & Documents

- Training material provided by React
- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Staff Induction Policy