Greenholm Primary School
Official Policy

Name of Policy: Positive Handling Policy

Date Reviewed: February 2025

Greenholm Primary
Greenholm Road
Great Barr
Birmingham
B44 8HS
0121 464 6321

Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy and Guidance for Staff at Greenholm Primary School

---

Context

This policy aligns with Greenholm Primary School's **Behaviour Policy** and forms part of a **graduated response** to managing behaviour. It has been developed in consultation with **staff, governors, parents/carers, and pupils**. This policy is also linked to and should be consistent with our policies on **Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Equal Opportunities, and Pastoral Care**.

---

1. Introduction

At Greenholm Primary School, we believe that pupils need to feel **safe and supported**. The adults around them must be able to **manage behaviour safely and confidently**. For a very small minority of pupils, the use of **restrictive physical intervention** may be required in specific situations.

The vast majority of pupils behave well and conform to our school's expectations. We operate a **positive behaviour approach** with **preventative strategies** that reduce the need for restrictive physical intervention. However, staff need to feel confident in **managing risk** and **understanding when intervention is necessary**, without fear of legal consequences when using appropriate physical contact. Parents also need assurance that their child is safe and that **any restrictive intervention is reported** appropriately.

---

2. Definition of 'Restrictive Physical Intervention'

The law allows teachers and other persons **authorised by the Headteacher** to use **reasonable force** to prevent a pupil from:

- **Committing a criminal offence**
- **Injuring themselves or others**
- **Causing damage to property**
- **Engaging in behaviour that is prejudicial to the good order and discipline of the school**

"Restrictive Physical Intervention" refers to the use of **reasonable force** where necessary to **control or restrain pupils**. There is no legal definition of "reasonable force," but it is generally understood as:

- **Necessary intervention**: Used only in situations where action must be taken immediately.
- **Proportionate force**: The level of force used must reflect the seriousness of the risk posed.

Greenholm Primary School **does not use seclusion or locked rooms** as a form of intervention. The school has **sensory rooms** that are used to support pupils in regulating their emotions, but these are not used as restrictive spaces.

OFFICIAL POLICY

Greenholm Primary
Greenholm Road
Great Barr
Birmingham
B44 8HS
0121 464 6321

3. When the Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions May Be Appropriate

Restrictive Physical Interventions will only be used as a last resort, after all other strategies have been exhausted. However, in situations of clear danger or extreme urgency, staff may need to act immediately to ensure safety.

Certain pupils may, at times, become distressed, agitated, or out of control, requiring a brief intervention to restore calm and prevent harm. The safety of all staff and pupils is always the overriding factor in any decision.

Who May Use Restrictive Physical Intervention?

The following staff, along with all teachers, are authorised by the Headteacher to intervene when necessary:

Name	Position within School	Date of Training
Daniel Evans	Deputy Head Teacher	20th November 2024
Lee Hooper	Phase Leader	20th November 2024
Romano Graham	Sports Coach	20th November 2024
Le'meyah Isaac	Sports Coach	20th November 2024
Sarah Roberts	Assistant HT	20th November 2024
Abid Halim	Class Teacher	20th November 2024
Nusrat Yaseen	BASC Manager	20th November 2024

Staff are not expected to put themselves in danger and should prioritise removing pupils and themselves from risk where possible.

---

4. Planning for the Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions

Where necessary, staff will use force that is reasonable and necessary to restore safety and appropriate behaviour.

Key Principles:

- Restrictive Physical Intervention is an act of care and control, never a punishment.
- Dialogue and de-escalation will always be prioritised before any physical intervention.
- Staff will only use force as a last resort and in proportion to the immediate risk.
- Every effort will be made to ensure other staff are present as assistants or witnesses.
- As soon as it is safe, the intervention will be relaxed or stopped to allow the pupil to regain control.

OFFICIAL POLICY

- The age, understanding, and individual needs (including any special educational needs or disability) of the pupil will always be considered. The school will make reasonable adjustments in respect of the operation of the policy for any child with special educational needs or a disability.
- Staff will be trained regularly in positive handling techniques.
- Incidents of restrictive intervention must always be recorded and reported.

---

5. Acceptable Forms of Physical Contact

There are occasions where staff may have appropriate physical contact with pupils, including:

- Providing comfort to a distressed pupil (appropriate to their age and situation).
- Gently guiding or redirecting a pupil.
- For curricular reasons (e.g., PE, Drama).
- In an emergency to avert immediate danger.
- As part of an agreed plan for a specific pupil where intervention has been assessed as necessary.
- When undertaking a search for certain prohibited items.

In all cases, staff must consider:

- The pupil's age, level of understanding, and history.
- The location (contact should not occur in private without another person present).

---

6. Recording & Reporting Procedures

1. The Headteacher (James Bird) is responsible for authorising staff to use restrictive physical intervention as part of planned interventions.
2. The Deputy Headteacher (Daniel Evans) is responsible for ensuring all planned interventions are risk-assessed.
3. Risk assessments are stored electronically in the Headteacher's office and reviewed after every use of force or at least termly.
4. Only trained staff listed in Table 1 may engage in planned restrictive interventions.
5. Emergency unplanned interventions may be used where it is necessary to prevent serious harm.
6. Every incident of restrictive physical intervention must be reported to the Headteacher or Deputy Head the same day.

OFFICIAL POLICY

Greenholm Primary
Greenholm Road
Great Barr
Birmingham
B44 8HS
0121 464 6321

7. Parents must be notified within 24 hours of any restrictive physical intervention.
8. Each incident must be recorded on the Pupil Incident Report Form, stored in the Headteacher's office.

---

7. Post-Incident Support

Following an incident:

- The pupil will have a reintegration conversation when calm, discussing what happened and why.
- Staff involved will reflect on the incident with their line manager.
- Any necessary adjustments to behaviour plans or risk assessments will be made.

Policy Review Date: February 2025

This policy will be reviewed **annually** or sooner if required.

OFFICIAL POLICY