SHANKLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Physical Intervention Policy

Policy Control Details			
Date policy approved:	September 2017		
Prepared by:	Helen Brown	Signature	Date
Approved for issue by:	Gareth Pearson	Signature	Date
Review period:	2 years		
Review required by:	September 2019		
Responsibility for review:	Performance Improvement Committee		

Shanklea Primary School: Physical Intervention Policy

This policy covers the use of physical intervention within the context of the school's overall Behaviour Policy.

Rationale

Shanklea Primary School recognises that the occasions when it will become necessary to physical restrain pupils will be very rare and only when there is no alternative in their and others' interests and safety.

Shanklea Primary School recognises the importance of placing its policy on physical intervention within the context of our whole school approach to behaviour. Our behaviour policy sets out the steps taken within school to positively promote and encourage good behaviour amongst pupils. It is specific about what behaviour is expected of pupils and what is unacceptable and sets out the range of progressive sanctions and steps which staff might feel it becomes necessary to apply.

Shanklea Primary School also recognises the very real difficulties which staff can sometimes be faced with in their day to day dealings with pupils on matters involving behaviour and discipline. Our approach to the issue of physical intervention is that:

- Pupils are entitled to a safe and secure environment in which the highest value is placed on learning on how to behave towards others
- Staff are also entitled to a safe and secure environment and have a right to personal support and guidance about what is expected of them in difficult situations

Our Policy

The school has a duty of care to all its pupils. Staff will therefore be required to act in a manner which safeguards and promotes the welfare of their pupils, and to do everything reasonable that is within their power to protect the child from harm, from harming others or from causing serious damage to property. In exceptional circumstances the carrying out of this responsibility may conceivably involve the use of reasonable force in accordance with the school's policy to physically control or restrain a pupil whose behaviour lies well beyond the usual boundaries of self-control.

Physical intervention should at no time be used as a threat, as punishment to the pupil or to force compliance with staff instructions when there is no risk of injury or of serious harm to property.

Physical intervention will only be used in the following circumstances:

- the child is attempting to harm himself/herself, or his/her actions may result in harm;

- there is a substantial risk of physical injury to a member of staff or a member of the public
- serious damage to property is being caused
- it is the judgement of the member of staff that there is a serious risk of any of the above happening unless immediate action is taken

Wherever possible, staff should exhaust a range of appropriate behaviour management strategies aimed at preventing the situation from reaching the point at which physical intervention becomes considered - for example, discussion, persuasion, diversion, a brief period of withdrawal from the main group. Physical intervention will therefore only be used as a last resort after all other agreed avenues to defuse and de-escalate the situation have been pursued or where staff feel that immediate action is required.

Once a member of staff has decided to intervene physically in order to prevent injury occurring to any person, or to serious damage to property, then he/she should:

- Give clear instructions warning the pupil that unless he/she conforms then physical intervention will be applied
- Calmly explain to the pupil that staff are unable to allow him/her to damage or hurt others and once they have calmed down and is no longer posing a threat then the physical intervention will cease
- Summon help from another member of staff, if at all possible, to act as witness and ensure the safety of both parties where possible. If no other staff are available then physical intervention should only take place where staff feel sure of success.
- Use only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage and for the minimum amount of time
- Gradually relax the restraint as soon as it is judged safe to do so, to allow the child to gain self-control
- Reassure the pupil that no harm will follow

Both pupil and the adult should be given time to recover, if possible, acknowledging that emotional distress takes longer to subside than physical symptoms.

The school's agreed reporting procedures will be followed.

Following an episode of physical intervention, the staff concerned must report the incident (using the form attached to this policy) to the Head Teacher or other designated person. It is important that details of the incident are recorded as soon as possible. It is advisable that the recording and reporting takes place before the member of staff leaves the school premises on the day the incident occurs.

Following any incidents every effort will be made to allow staff to reflect and discuss what happened and why, and assess future implications for the management of the pupil and their behaviour.

If possible, discussion should take place between senior management, staff and pupil directly involved to encourage the pupil to face up to the problem and its consequences. If at all possible such a meeting should include parents.

It is the Head Teacher's responsibility to ensure incident reports are read as soon as possible and his/her own comments will be recorded. It will also be the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure feedback to staff and pupil takes place, and that subsequent meetings or behaviour management plans are arranged.

The Head Teacher will monitor the use of restraint, including consideration of:

- The appropriateness of physical intervention
- The attempts at defusing situations
- Correct post restraint procedures have been carried out
- The need for individual behaviour management plans
- The need for INSET/training for staff

The Head Teacher will ensure that reports of incidents are correctly filed with copies sent to parents and social services as appropriate. In the case of a looked after child, a copy should be forwarded to the key social worker in order to be placed on the child's case file. The Head Teacher will also arrange for reports monitoring and evaluating the use of physical intervention to go on a regular basis to the Governing Body.

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION REPORT FORM

Report Number:	This form should be completed as fully as possible, using a continuation sheet if necessary, then returned to the Head Teacher

Pupil's Name:	**Date of Birth:**
Date:	**Time:**
Location:	
Report Compiler:	**Signature:**
Position:	
Names of staff involved:	

Reason for Intervention

1 Threat of immediate danger of personal injury to people..... ☐

2 Threat of immediate danger of injury to another person..... ☐

3 To avoid damage to property ..... ☐

4 Disruption to other pupils ..... ☐

5 Absconding..... ☐

A description of events leading up to the incident/behaviour

De-escalation Techniques used:

Verbal Advice and Support ☐ Reassurance ☐ Calm Talking ☐ Humour ☐

Distraction ☐ Options Offered ☐ Step Away ☐ Time Out Offered ☐

Time Out Directed ☐ Negotiation ☐ Non-Threatening Body Language ☐

Other *(Please Specify)*

Behaviour: How did the pupil respond following de-escalation efforts:
(Describe relevant actual behaviour)

Physical Control Team Teach Technique Used:

Wrist Release ☐ Hair Release ☐ Strange release ☐ Bite release ☐

Bear Hug Release ☐ Single Hold ☐ Double Elbow ☐ Figure of Four ☐

The Wrap ☐ Move Dead Weight ☐ Separate Fight ☐ Use of Chairs/Sofas ☐

Deflection/Blocking of Blows/Kicks ☐

Duration of Physical Control:

Less than 1 minute ☐ 3 ☐ 5 ☐ 7 ☐ 9 ☐

More than 10 minutes *(Please state):*

Injuries: Name of injury *(please state)*

STAFF:

PUPIL:

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY:

Post Incident Actions:

Interview with child:

Interview with staff:

Parents informed by: SSD informed by:

Further follow up action:

Sanctions imposed:

Refer to outside agency (i.e. Ed Psych, Child Psychiatrist, GP:

Meeting with parents:

Monitoring by Senior Management Team:
Comments:

Action Taken:

Signed: **Date:**