



# Montgomery High School

## Physical Intervention Policy

Approved

14/10/14

Review period

3 years

## **PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Montgomery High School is committed to a calm and purposeful working environment whereby both students and staff feel safe and able to focus on teaching and learning. Staff and students work hard to maintain these standards and many issues can be anticipated and dealt with at an early stage. However, we recognise that there might be situations whereby physical intervention could be considered.

1.2 Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and DfE Guidance 'Use of Reasonable Force Advice for Headteachers, Staff and Governing Bodies' (July 2013) enable school staff to use such force as is reasonable in circumstances which prevent a student from:

- a. committing any offence;
- b. causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including themselves); or
- c. prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any students receiving education at the school

1.3 However, such 'physical contact' is of a last resort and all other reasonable measures to defuse a situation should be used. Staff need to beware of sensitivities associated with any form of physical contact with students. In addition, staff actions should be in keeping with Child Protection, Health and Safety and Behaviour policies.

### **2. Minimising the Need to Use Reasonable Force**

2.1 The School believes that there are a number of measures which help reduce the likelihood of situations arising where the power to use reasonable force may need to be exercised:

- a. creating a calm, orderly and supportive school atmosphere;
- b. developing effective relationships between students and staff;
- c. developing Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning;
- d. using positive behaviour management;
- e. foreseeing many challenging behaviours and de-escalating incidents if they do arise;
- f. managing individual incidents well such as communicating calmly, using non-threatening behaviours and ensuring the student can see a way out of a situation;
- g. warning a student that force may have to be used;
- h. sharing risk assessments and plans for individual students.

### **3. Using Reasonable Force**

3.1 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 allows teachers or any other person whom the Headteacher has authorised to use these powers. In challenging situations 'on call' staff should have been called alerting senior staff to the incident. There may be the need to call the Police. The decision to use reasonable force will depend on the circumstances of each case and teachers will need to make a judgement. This may depend on the seriousness of

the incident (what injury, damage or disorder may happen if reasonable force is not used?); the chances of managing the situation by other means and/or the relative risks associated with physical intervention compared with other strategies.

3.2 Examples of situations that may call for judgements of this kind could include: a student attacking a member of staff or student, students fighting with a risk of serious injury, a student committing damage to property or other situations whereby there are risks to the safety of students and staff.

3.3 Before using reasonable force staff should:

- a. communicate to the student in a calm and measured manner telling them to stop behaving unacceptably;
- b. make it clear that physical intervention may be necessary.

3.4 The types of force used could include:

- a. passive physical contact blocking a student's path;
- b. active physical contact such as leading a student by the hand or arm, ushering a student away by placing a hand in the centre of the back;

3.5 In all cases the degree of force used should be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result. As far as possible, force should not be used unless another responsible adult is present.

#### **4. Following Incidents**

4.1 All incidents involving any form of physical intervention must be reported straight away to the Headteacher or in their absence a Deputy Headteacher, who will, in turn inform the Senior Designated member of staff (Child Protection) as appropriate.

4.2 The staff involved must write down the incident as soon as it is practical to do so. Senior staff will advise on the nature of the written record. It will be important to record all facts as well as explaining why such physical intervention was used. The written record must be passed to the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher: Guidance and Welfare. A member of senior staff will make contact with parents of the student(s) involved. The Governing Body will be informed in line with reporting arrangements.

4.3 If staff and/or students require first aid, this should be accessed in the usual way. Priority must be given to any medical need.

4.4 Emotional support arrangements will be made, as necessary.

4.5 Complaints from parents and students will be dealt with in line with Complaints Procedures. Allegations against will be managed in line with Safeguarding guidance. Senior staff will liaise with external agencies should it be appropriate.

#### **5. Monitoring and Review**

5.1 The policy will be reviewed (and if necessary updated) regularly.

Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment

<b>Date: 3/12/13</b>	<b>Policy/Activity: Physical Intervention</b>	<b>Assessor: HT</b>
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Number	Protected Characteristics	Any Concerns Arising?	Details of Concerns	Recommendations
1	<b>Disability</b>		Information accessibility	Make a range of accessibility tools available e.g. 'text to audio', large text, etc. as needed.
	Example: physical disabilities, learning difficulties or medical needs		Potential medical impact	Always intervene with <u>minimum</u> physicality. Respond carefully to known needs.
	Young carer/carer			
2	<b>Gender</b>		Emergency need to physically intervene	Where possible, restrict physical intervention to same gender.
	Females/Males			
3	<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
	Example: Gay, Lesbian			
4	<b>Gender Reassignment</b>			
	Gender Reassignment			
5	<b>Race/Ethnic Group</b>			
	Example: Black, Asian, Chinese, etc			
6	<b>Pregnancy/Maternity</b>		Medical issues	Avoid physical intervention where pregnancy is known, unless unavoidable.
	Pregnancy or maternity/paternity			
7	<b>Marriage/Civil Partnership</b>			

	Marriage/Civil Partnership			
8	<b>Religion or Beliefs</b>			
	Example: Jewish, Muslim, Christian etc			
9	<b>Age</b>			
	Age			