



PHYSICAL CONTACT AND INTERVENTION POLICY

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Scope of this policy

THIS POLICY SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This policy is written in consideration of Federal Law 03/2016 where misconduct in relation to a child is obliged to be reported.

1 Physical Contact

- 1.1 We define appropriate use of physical contact as in situations in which abstinence would actually be inhumane, unkind and potentially psychologically or neurobiologically damaging.
- 1.2 It may be in the best interests of the child to physically hold them if they are hurting themselves, others, or damaging property and is so incensed and out of control that any attempt to verbally engage them have failed.
- 1.3 Staff are aware of physical contact that is invasive or which could be traumatising, or experienced as eroticising in anyway. Should any such physical contact be used it would be deemed as a serious breach of the staff code of conduct.
- 1.4 Any form of physical punishment of pupils is unlawful, as is any form of physical response to misbehaviour unless it is by way of restraint. School punishments will not involve any form of degrading treatment. It important that staff understand this both to protect their own position and the reputation of the School; however, the safety of the children is paramount.

2 Where Physical Contact may be acceptable

- 2.1 There may be occasions where a distressed pupil needs comfort and reassurance which may include physical comforting such as a caring parent would give. Staff should use their discretion in such cases to ensure that what is appropriate and natural does not become inappropriate or unjustified contact. Where a member of staff has a particular ongoing concern about the need to provide this type of care and reassurance they should seek the advice of their line manager.
- 2.2 There may be an occasion to guide a pupil, using the 'caring C' approach to a suitable location following an incident (behavioural/emotional)
- 2.3 If a student has an individual care plan, then any physical contact (which may include toileting) should be in accordance with that plan.
- 2.4 Children have a right to feel safe and secure in their bodies and in their feelings. Staff at RPS will work together to ensure this is the case.



- 2.5 If it is necessary to use physical force to protect a pupil from injury, to prevent a pupil from harming others or if any pupil is injured accidentally, parents will be informed immediately. In such cases only the appropriate physical contact necessary may be used and any action taken must be in the best interests of the pupil. Where an employee has taken action to physically restrain a pupil they should make a written report of the incident which should be forwarded to the Senior Designated Person for Safeguarding (see section below on School Procedures). Any complaints about staff behaviour from pupils should be made to the Principal following the Safeguarding procedures.
- 2.6 Where staff are acting in the best interests of the child, they will be supported by the school.

3 Further guidance on Physical Intervention of a child who in danger of harming themselves

- 3.1 Staff faced with a situation where physical intervention may be required immediately should adhere to the following sequence wherever possible:
- 3.1.1 Send for help immediately (if not to help with the incident itself then to ensure that there are adult witnesses).
 - 3.1.2 Appraise the situation quickly and honestly and decide whether or not it is controllable by oneself, especially in terms of physical strength.
 - 3.1.3 Send away any other pupils who may be at risk or who may be exacerbating the situation.
 - 3.1.4 Intervene verbally as quickly as possible, displaying a calm, in control and reassuring demeanour.
 - 3.1.5 If verbal engagement is not working, or a situation is going to escalate then guide the pupil away from the situation by means of holding their hand or a guided walk using the 'Caring C' approach.
 - 3.1.6 Use physical contact to restrain the pupil(s), bearing in mind the constraints listed below, whilst explaining in a calm and measured way why the action is being taken, and where the pupil is going.
 - 3.1.7 Continue to talk calmly and non-judgmentally to the protagonist(s) while they regain their composure and become able to follow normal verbal instructions. Always refer back to you being there to help them.
- 3.2 If physical intervention required, for example if
- 3.2.1 a pupil attacks a member of staff;
 - 3.2.2 pupils are fighting;
 - 3.2.3 a pupil is causing damage by rough play;



- 3.2.4 a child flees the classroom and by doing so puts them in danger because of lack of safety etc, then staff should adhere to the following guidelines:

Perform a risk assessment

- If necessary and practical, transfer other pupils to the immediate care of another member of staff.
- Whenever possible ensure that two members of staff carry out any physical intervention.
- After any physical intervention ensure that there is time for all participants to debrief on the situation and opportunity for reparation is there for the pupil.
- When debriefing, analyse how this physical intervention could be prevented in the future.

4 School Procedures following an incident

- 4.1 If any incident takes place which requires physical intervention or the physical restraint of a pupil, the following actions should be taken:
- 4.1.1 The Designated Safeguarding Officer on site should be informed immediately.
 - 4.1.2 The staff involved and witnesses and child, where appropriate, should complete a written, dated and signed report for the Designated Person.
 - 4.1.3 The DSL should make a decision as to the following issues:
 - 4.1.3.1 Whether or not medical help is required;
 - 4.1.3.2 Whether or not the incident should be reported as a Child Protection issue; (If so, then the Principal must be informed, this may be the Vice Principal or the Head of Key Stage, no later than this point of considered action).
 - 4.1.3.3 When and how to contact the parents.
- 4.2 A record of the incident and a copy of any reports must be retained for future reference saved to the notes section of the child's profile on ISAMS. Parents should be told of the incident as soon as possible. Parents will have the right to discuss the way in which the School has handled the incident.

5 Early Years Pupils

- 5.1 From time to time it may be necessary for staff, particularly in Nursery and FS, to have physical contact with children. This might be in one of the following areas:
- 5.1.1 Supporting a pupil whilst dressing/undressing.
 - 5.1.2 Providing comfort or support for a distressed pupil.
 - 5.1.3 Assisting a pupil requiring medical care.



- 5.1.4 Cleaning a pupil who has soiled him/herself, has vomited or feels unwell.
- 5.2 It is important on such occasions that staff take note of the following 'Intimate Care' guidance.

6 Definition

- 6.1 Intimate care is one of the following:
 - 6.1.1 Supporting a pupil with dressing/undressing.
 - 6.1.2 Providing comfort or support for a distressed pupil.
 - 6.1.3 Assisting a pupil requiring medical care, who is not able to carry this out unaided.
 - 6.1.4 Cleaning a pupil who has soiled him/herself or feels unwell in accordance with the nappy changing procedure.

7 Supporting dressing/undressing

- 7.1 Sometimes it will be necessary for staff to aid a child in getting dressed or undressed particularly in Early Years and Nursery. Staff will always encourage children to attempt undressing and dressing unaided.

8 Providing comfort or support

- 8.1 Children may seek physical comfort from staff (particularly children in Nursery and Reception). Where children require physical support, staff need to be aware that physical contact must be kept to a minimum and be child initiated. When comforting a child or giving reassurance, the member of staff's hands should always be seen and a child should not be positioned close to a member of staff's body which could be regarded as intimate. If physical contact is deemed to be appropriate staff must provide care which is suitable to the age, gender and situation of the child.
- 8.2 If a child touches a member of staff in a way that makes him/her feel uncomfortable this can be gently but firmly discouraged in a way which communicates that the touch, rather than the child, is unacceptable.

9 Soiling

- 9.1 Intimate care for soiling should only be given to a child after the parents have given permission for staff to clean and change the child. In the Nursery permission to clean and change the child is assumed and not explicitly sought.



- 9.2 If a parent does not give consent, the school will contact the parents or other emergency contact giving specific details about the necessity for cleaning the child. If the parents/carers or emergency contact is able to come within a few minutes, the child is comforted and kept away from the other children to preserve dignity until the parent arrives. Children are not left on their own whilst waiting for a parent to arrive, an adult will stay with them, giving comfort and reassurance. The child will be dressed at all times and never left partially clothed.
- 9.3 If a parent/carer or emergency contact cannot attend, the school seeks to gain verbal consent from parents/carers for staff to clean and change the child. This permission will be sought on each occasion that the child soils him or herself.
- 9.4 If the parents and emergency contacts cannot be contacted the Principal will be consulted. If put in an impossible situation where the child is at risk, staff will act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid the child.
- 9.5 When touching a child, staff should always be aware of the possibility of invading a child's privacy and will respect the child's wishes and feelings.
- 9.6 If a child needs to be cleaned, staff will make sure that:
 - 9.6.1 Protective gloves are worn.
 - 9.6.2 The procedure is discussed in a friendly and reassuring way with the child throughout the process.
 - 9.6.3 The child is encouraged to care for him/herself as far as possible.
 - 9.6.4 Physical contact is kept to the minimum possible to carry out the necessary cleaning.
 - 9.6.5 Privacy is given appropriate to the child's age and the situation.
 - 9.6.6 Any soiling that can be, is flushed down the toilet.
 - 9.6.7 Soiled clothing is put in a plastic bag, unwashed, and sent home with the child.

10 Hygiene

- 10.1 All staff must be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection, must follow basic hygiene procedures and have access to protective, disposable gloves.

11 Protection for staff

- 11.1 Members of staff need to have regard to the danger of allegations being made against them and take precautions to avoid this risk. These should include:
 - 11.1.1 Gaining a verbal agreement from another member of staff that the action being taken is necessary.



- 11.1.2 Allow the child a choice in the sequence of care if possible.
 - 11.1.3 Wherever possible encourage the child to wipe their own intimate areas after going to the toilet.
 - 11.1.4 Note incidents on the Notes section on ISAMS on the child's Pupil Profile.
- 11.2 Be aware of and responsive to the child's reactions.