

# Stonehouse Park Infant School



Stonehouse Park  
Infant School

*The BEST start for every child so every child can be the BEST they can be.*

## Physical Intervention

**(This policy should be read in conjunction with Safeguarding , Equal Opportunity, Staff Code of Conduct, Safer Working, Behaviour, & SEND policies)**

**Updated: January 2021**

**Ratified by Governors: March 2021**

**Review Date: January 2022**

## **Our Vision Statement**

**For every child to set out confidently on the adventure of learning: curious about the world, excited about their future, positive of their ability and caring towards other people.**

### **Our Aims:**

#### **Curious about the world**

- To promote awareness and understanding of other cultures.
- To develop the children's motivation, discovering their special interests and talents.
- To introduce children to a wide range of new experiences, ideas and activities.
- To encourage the children to ask questions about the world, talk about their ideas and express their opinions.

#### **Excited about their future**

- To make children excited about learning and eager to move on to the next stage of their learning.
- To help children to look beyond their immediate surroundings and their own personal circumstances.
- To shape a curriculum which will develop the knowledge and skills that children will need to meet the challenges of their future lives.
- To involve children in problem solving and develop their capacity to be active citizens

#### **Positive of their ability**

- To help children to reach the highest levels of achievement in all they do.
- To demonstrate to all children that they are able to learn and that they can succeed.
- To provide the highest quality of teaching for all children and to meet every child's individual needs.
- To develop children's awareness of their own learning and the value of resilience, perseverance and dedication.

#### **Caring of other people**

- To develop sensitivity to the feelings and concerns of other people.
- To demonstrate compassion, respect for others and develop a moral understanding.
- To learn how to co-operate and work with other people.

## 1. Introduction

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Stonehouse Park Infant School recognises that for the majority of children attending the school and nursery physical intervention will never need to be considered. This policy sets out guidance for staff to act in such a way that protects themselves and the children in their care.

At Stonehouse Park Infant School we recognise that adherence to the good behaviour policy can limit the need for physical intervention, but that on occasion there is no other option but to physically intervene for the safety and welfare of children in our care. The use of physical intervention must be reasonable and comply with DFEE Circular 10/98, DfES/DoH guidance, County Council Policies and the Stonehouse Park Infant School Behaviour Policy.

## 2. Aims

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The main aims of this policy are:

- To clarify what is acceptable and what is unacceptable use of force to control or restrain children;
- To help maintain standards of discipline and order within school and nursery;
- To ensure the school and nursery provides a safe, secure environment for children and adults.

## 3. Practice

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### a. When to intervene physically

The expectation is that physical intervention:

- should only be used as a last resort, in clear and dire circumstances;
- should only be used in the best interest of the child, other children or adults;
- should only be used after all preventative measures have been explored;
- should never be punitive;
- should be reasonable, proportionate and necessary.

Any child known to have behavioural problems, which may result in the need to use physical control or restraint, should be the subject of a risk assessment, detailing preventative measures to stop incidents escalating and the appropriate methods of dealing with that individual child. The assessment should be linked to any Individual Education Plan or Pastoral Support Plan for the child, and the actions stated should have been discussed and agreed with the parent/carer. All members of staff who may have contact with the child should be aware of the assessment and measures to be taken if required.

Physical intervention can be considered in the following circumstances:

- where there is a danger of physical harm to another child or children or to the child himself;
- where there is a danger of physical harm to a member of staff;
- where there is a risk of significant damage to property (but staff should not endanger themselves for property);
- where there is severe disruption to the maintenance of good order and discipline in the classroom or other areas of the school or nursery.

Unless immediate action is required for the safety of the child or other children, the adult present should always send for a senior member of staff and seek to manage the situation by means other than physical intervention until help arrives.

**b. Reasonable force:**

In the first instance a senior member of staff should be called as they are trained in "TEAM" teach methods.

We will ensure that all class teachers and the TAs who work with children who have challenging behaviour have received "TEAM" teach training.

- Any force used should be appropriate to the particular incident that warrants it, and should be the minimum force needed to control the situation.
- Before force is used a teacher should tell the child who is behaving in an unsafe manner to stop and state the consequences if they do not.
- A calm measured approach is needed and there should never be the appearance of loss of temper or of acting out of anger or frustration, or to punish the child.

**c. How to intervene physically:**

Staff should not act in any way that might cause injury, for example by:

- holding a child around the neck, or by the collar, or in any other way that might restrict the child's ability to breathe;
- slapping, punching or kicking a child;
- twisting or forcing limbs against a joint;
- tripping up a child;
- holding or pulling a child by the hair or ear;
- holding a child face down on the ground.
- Staff should always avoid touching or holding a child in a way that might be considered indecent.

Suitable means of physical intervention could include:

- interposing between children or blocking a child's path;
- touching, holding or leading a child by the arm;
- moving a child by placing a hand in the centre of the back.

#### **4. Recording of Incidents:**

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In the event of a serious instance of physical force being used, the incident must be reported to the Headteacher, followed by a written report.

Parents should also be notified.

In the event of a formal parental complaint, the incident should be referred to the Governors' Complaints Committee.