

# POSITIVE HANDLING (including Restraint) POLICY

## The Paragon School

<b>Policy Owner</b> Deputy Head Pastoral and DSL	<b>Applies to</b> The Paragon School	<b>Superseded documents</b> Positive Handling inc Restrain v3
<b>Associated documents</b> Safeguarding Policy Health and Safety Policy SEND Policy Positive Behaviour Policy Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Policy Conducting a Student Search Policy	<b>Review frequency</b> Every two years (unless the legislation/regulations update before this time)  <b>Implementation date</b> 1 September 2024	<b>Legal Framework</b> KCSIE Department for Education- Use of reasonable force guidance 2013 Reducing the Need for Restraint and Restrictive Intervention 2019 Working together to Safeguard Children 2018 Behaviour in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff 2022 Searching, screening and confiscation at school 2018 Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022 The Equality Act 2010 Human Rights Act 1998

This policy is reviewed biennially, or more regularly as required, prior to approval by Trustees, where applicable.

<b>Last reviewed by:</b>	Deputy Head Pastoral and DSL (Mrs S James) and Head of Compliance (Miss E Wickham)
<b>Date last reviewed:</b>	August 2024
<b>Approved by Trustees:</b>	Approved by the SLT
<b>Date last approved:</b>	28 August 2024
<b>Date for next approval:</b>	August 2026

## 1. Introduction

Prior Park Schools (PPS) is a family of Christian schools based in Bath and Gibraltar. Prior Park College (PPC) and The Paragon School (TP) are incorporated in England as Prior Park Educational Trust Ltd. Prior Park School Gibraltar (PPSG), is incorporated in Gibraltar as Prior Park School Ltd. Both are companies limited by guarantee and registered charities.

The Prior Park Schools mission, underpinned by shared values, is to steward a thriving family of communities with love for the young people they serve at their heart. These vibrant communities cultivate creativity, foster integrity, and transform lives.

Prior Park Schools Values:

Curiosity - Generosity - Courage

## 2. Policy Statement

The Paragon School would not expect any physical intervention to be used by staff in routine/normal circumstances. We do not feel it wise to have any physical contact with pupils if this can be avoided.

In the update to **Keeping Children Safe in Education** it states '*there are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff in schools and colleges to use reasonable force to safeguard children*'. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children.

This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a young person needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. 'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'.

The use of force may involve either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm away from harm.

The Paragon School will always follow the guidance set out in '**Use of reasonable force: Advice for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies**', July 2013 and '**Reducing the Need for Restraint and Restrictive Intervention**', June 2019.

- Staff should always exercise professional caution and ensure any use of intervention is proportionate and recorded formally, using CPOMS, immediately after the event.
- The staff member must also inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) (if they are not available, they must inform the Head).
- Staff are reminded that it is better to control any situation by voice and presence, employing de-escalation techniques, seeking to deal with the problem through their natural authority.
- They should use a calm, measured tone to manage the situation. A hand, held up, as a stop sign might be an effective signal to establish control.
- If a member of staff is involved in a difficult situation with a child, they should first use de-escalation techniques. If de-escalation techniques are not enough, then positive handling techniques should be used, for example gentle guidance by holding an elbow or a hand placed lightly on a shoulder. They must also seek to alert the participants to what they are doing.
- If a child is behaving recklessly or fighting, staff may need to call assistance to establish control and their actions must remain proportionate.
- Staff must weigh their duty to protect the welfare of the child with the professional risks of using restraint, striving to defuse and control the situation

### **3. Children with SEND**

Children with SEND, mental health problems and/or with medical conditions, can possibly be more at risk of requiring Physical Intervention, in line with supporting their needs. Any child identified as requiring more regular Physical Intervention will follow the steps below:

- Staff will be given training
- A risk assessment will be drawn up and agreed with SENDCo/Parents/Staff/Head
- All incidents of Physical Intervention will be recorded in CPOMS and communicated with parents
- DSL and SENDCo will be informed immediately

Following the guidance set out in KCSIE Prior Park Schools recognises that when using reasonable force in response to risks presented by incidents involving children with SEND, mental health problems or with medical conditions, schools and colleges should in considering the risks carefully recognise the additional vulnerability of these groups.

By planning positive and proactive behaviour support, for instance through drawing up individual behaviour plans for more vulnerable children, and agreeing them with parents and carers, schools and colleges can reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviour and the need to use reasonable force.' Prior Park Schools will follow the advice in Reducing the Need for Restraint and Restrictive Intervention (June 2019).

### **4. Physical Intervention and Risk Assessments**

In specific cases, consideration must be given to whether Physical Intervention may be necessary in managing behaviour. If Physical Intervention may be necessary, the circumstances that give rise to it and the strategies for managing it should be outlined in a bespoke Risk Assessment that will be drawn up, either when a child is identified as likely to need Physical Intervention, or after the first occasion it has been used.

This Risk Assessment should outline the circumstances that may give rise to the use of Physical Intervention, the methods which are known or likely to be effective and other arrangements for its use. It is also important to determine whether there are any medical conditions which might place the child at risk should particular techniques or methods of physical intervention be used. If

so, this must be drawn to the attention of those working with or looking after the child and it must be stated in the child's Risk Assessment and Medical Record. If in doubt, medical advice must be sought.

The absence or existence of such a plan does not prevent staff/carers from acting as they see fit when confronted with unforeseen likely injury or damage to property, so long as the actions taken are consistent with the principles and procedures contained in this policy.

When Physical Intervention has been used, this must be recorded in CPOMS and the DSL and SENDCo must be informed that day, with details of the incident and the context, the Physical Intervention used, and the follow up with the child with any action. Following this, the risk assessment will be reviewed to determine whether it needs to be updated.

As all physical interventions will be recorded on CPOMS, a clear chronology will be created to inform practice going forward.

## **5. Who may use Physical Interventions?**

Trained staff should only use Physical Intervention if they have undertaken approved training. However, where staff have not undertaken such training, the use of minimum force may be justified if it is the only way to prevent injury or damage to property.

Where staff have not undertaken such training, the use of force may still be justified if it is the only way to prevent injury or damage to property. In these circumstances, staff must always act in a manner consistent with the values and principles set out in this policy. Any intervention used must:

- Not impede the process of breathing
- Not be used in a way which may be interpreted as sexual
- Not intentionally inflict pain or injury or threaten to do so
- Avoid vulnerable parts of the body, e.g. the neck, chest and sexual areas
- Avoid extending the joints beyond the normal limits or range of motion (hyperextension or hyperflexion), and pressure on or across the joints
- Not employ potentially dangerous positions.

## **6. Criteria for Using Physical Interventions**

There are different criteria for the use of physical interventions

- Physical intervention may only be used where there is likely significant injury or serious damage to property or to keep the individual child, or other children safe.
- De-Escalation techniques, Positive Touching or Presence are less forceful and less restrictive and may be used to protect children or others from injury, or to prevent damage to property which is less than serious
- For the intervention to be justified there must be a belief that injury or damage is likely in the predictable future
  1. The intervention must be immediately necessary
  2. The actions or interventions taken must be a last resort
  3. Any force or intervention used must be the minimum necessary to achieve the objective.