



PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY

Presented to:

**Governors Sub-Committee –
Students and Safeguarding
Tuesday 12 March 2024**

Date approved: ¹	11 February 2020
Date reviewed: ²	28 February 2023
Date of next review: ³	12 March 2024

¹ This is the date the policy was approved by the meeting

² This is the date the policy was reviewed prior to its approval above

³ This is the date as set by the policy review clause or the date approved plus three years

Physical Intervention Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Arthur Mellows Village College believes that students need to be safe, to know how to behave, and to know that the adults around them are able to manage them safely and confidently. Only for a very small minority of students will the use of physical intervention be needed. On such occasions, acceptable forms of intervention are used.
- 1.2 The majority of students behave well and conform to College expectations. We have responsibility to operate an effective behaviour policy that encompasses preventative strategies for tackling inappropriate behaviour in relation to the whole College, each class, and individual students.
- 1.3 All College staff need to feel that they are able to manage inappropriate behaviour, and to have an understanding of what challenging behaviours might be communicating. They need to know what options are available for managing behaviour, and they need to be free of undue worries about the risks of legal action against them if they use appropriate physical intervention. Parents / Carers need to know that their children are safe with us, and they need to be properly informed if their child is the subject of a Restrictive Physical Intervention, including the nature of the intervention, and the rationale for its use.

2. DEFINITION OF “RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTION”

- 2.1 “Restrictive Physical Intervention” is the term used to describe interventions where bodily contact using force is used to control or manage a child’s behaviour. It refers to any instance in which a teacher or other adult authorised by the Head of College has to use “reasonable force” to control or restrain students in circumstances that meet the following legally defined criteria
 - To prevent a child from committing a criminal offence (*this applies even if the child is below the age of criminal responsibility*)
 - To prevent a child from injuring self or others
 - To prevent or stop a child from causing serious damage to property (*including the child’s own property*)
 - To stop the child from engaging in any behaviour which is prejudicial to maintaining the good order and discipline at the College
- 2.2 There is no legal definition of “reasonable force”. However, there are two relevant considerations:
 - the use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of an incident warrant it
 - the degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent

3. WHEN THE USE OF RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTIONS MAY BE APPROPRIATE

- 3.1 Restrictive Physical Interventions will be used when all other strategies have failed, and therefore only as a last resort. However there are other situations when physical handling may be necessary, for example in a situation of clear danger or extreme urgency. Certain students may become distressed, agitated, and out of control, and need calming with a brief Restrictive Physical Intervention that is un-resisted after a few seconds.

3.2 The safety and well-being of all staff and students are important considerations. Under certain conditions this duty must be an over-riding factor

4. WHO MAY USE RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTION

4.1 All Teaching Staff and Pastoral Staff are authorised by the Head of College to have control of students, and **must** be aware of this Policy and its implications. However, non-inclusion on this list does not mean that an adult is necessarily barred from using physical intervention. If the Head of College has lawfully placed an adult in charge of children then that adult will be entitled to use restrictive physical intervention.

4.2 We take the view that staff should not be expected to put themselves in danger and that removing other students and themselves from risky situations may be the right thing to do. We value staff efforts to rectify what can be very difficult situations and in which they exercise their duty of care for the students.

5. PLANNING FOR THE USE OF RESTRICTIVE PHYSICAL INTERVENTIONS

5.1 Staff will use the minimum force needed to restore safety and appropriate behaviour.

5.2 The principles relating to the intervention are as follows :

- Restrictive Physical Intervention is an act of care and control, not punishment. It is never used to force compliance with staff instructions
- Restrictive Physical Intervention will only be used in circumstances when one or more of the legal criteria for its use are met
- staff will only use it when there are good grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary and that it is in the student's and/or other student's best interests for staff to intervene physically
- staff will take steps in advance to avoid the need for Restrictive Physical Intervention through dialogue and diversion. The student will be warned, at their level of understanding, that Restrictive Physical Intervention will be used unless they cease the unacceptable behaviour
- only the minimum force necessary will be used
- staff will be able to show that the intervention used was a reasonable response
- every effort will be made to secure the presence of other staff, and these staff may act as assistants and/or witnesses
- as soon as it is safe, the Restrictive Physical Intervention will be relaxed to allow the student to regain self-control
- a distinction will be maintained between the use of a one-off intervention which is appropriate to a particular circumstance, and the using of it repeatedly as a regular feature of College policy
- escalation will be avoided at all costs, especially if it would make the overall situation more destructive and unmanageable
- the age, understanding, and competence of the individual student will be taken into account

- in developing Individual Education/Behaviour Plans, consideration will be given to approaches appropriate to each student's circumstance
- procedures are in place, through the pastoral system of the College, for supporting and debriefing students and staff after every incident of Restrictive Physical Intervention, as it is essential to safeguard the emotional well-being of all involved at these times

6. ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF INTERVENTION

6.1 There are occasions when staff will have cause to have physical contact with students for a variety of reasons, for example:

- to comfort a student in distress (so long as this is appropriate to statutory guidance)
- to gently direct a student
- for curricular reasons (for example in PE, Drama etc)
- in an emergency to avert danger to the student or students
- in rare circumstances, when Restrictive Physical Intervention is warranted

6.2 In all situations where physical contact between staff and students takes place, staff must consider the following:

- the student's age and level of understanding
- the student's individual characteristics and history
- the location where the contact takes place

7. REPORTING AND RECORDING PROCEDURES

7.1 In all circumstances when Restrictive Physical Intervention has been necessary, the circumstances must always be reported and discussed with a Senior Manager. A log will be made on the student's record.

7.2 Where physical restraint has been applied due to the 4th or 5th bullet points named in 6.1, a physical restraint form (appendix A) will be completed by the member of staff within 24 hours. This must be logged on My Concern and Appendix A uploaded to the concern.

8. COMPLAINTS

8.1 It is intended that by adopting this policy the College can avoid the need for complaints. All disputes which arise about the use of force by a member of staff will be dealt with according to Child Protection and Safeguarding policies and the College's own complaints procedure.

9. POLICY REVIEW

9.1 The Governors will review this policy in line with the procedure for policy review.

Date for Review

If no other reason for review, this policy will be reviewed every three years.

APPENDIX A



ARTHUR MELLOWS VILLAGE COLLEGE



**PHYSICAL INTERVENTION / USE OF RESTRAINT
LOG SHEET**

Please complete this form and hand to a Pastoral Lead in any instances that involve physical intervention / use of restraint with a student.

Date of incident		Time of incident	
Member of staff member(s) using force			
Name(s) of students involved			
Location of incident			
Names of any witnesses	1.	2.	
	3.	4.	
Reason for Physical Intervention (please tick all appropriate)	<input type="checkbox"/> To prevent a student harming another person (including staff or fellow student) <input type="checkbox"/> To prevent a student harming themselves <input type="checkbox"/> To prevent a student engaging in serious disorder and disruption to a lesson / school event / on a school trip <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____		
Please describe the circumstances concerning <u>why</u> physical intervention / restraint was used			

Please continue overleaf...

<p>Please describe what physical intervention / restraint was used. Please ensure your account explains why this was proportionate and necessary.</p>	
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Signed: _____ *Please now hand this form to a SLT Pastoral Lead.*

For Pastoral Lead use only:

SLT Pastoral Lead Name	
Action taken	<input type="checkbox"/> Statements taken <input type="checkbox"/> Informed parents <input type="checkbox"/> Logged on SIMS <input type="checkbox"/> Uploaded to My Concern
Follow-up action / consequences	