



DJANOGLY CITY ACADEMY

# Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy

For Staff and Students

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# **Physical Intervention Policy**

*(Use of Reasonable Force)*

## **Djanogly City Academy**

### **Background to our policy**

The Department of Education (DfE) recognises that we as a school have a duty to care for all pupils who attend the academy, and that staff should take appropriate actions to ensure that children in our care are protected from harm and do not harm others.

*“There are occasions when restrictive physical intervention (RPI) is an appropriate response to the risks presented in a particular situation. However, the scale and nature of any physical intervention must be proportionate to both the behaviour of the individual to be controlled, and the nature of the harm they might cause.*

*DfE Guidance states that no schools should have a ‘no contact’ policy. There is a real risk that such a policy might place a member of staff in breach of their duty of care towards a pupil, or prevent them taking action needed to prevent a pupil causing harm.”*

DfE Policy: Restrictive Physical Intervention, May 2013

### **Objectives**

Here at Djanogly City Academy we aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly environment for all our pupils to allow them to learn effectively, improve their life chances and help them maximise their potential.

We take the safety of our pupils and staff very seriously. We believe that all pupils and staff have the right to be and feel safe whilst at school or on a school-run activity.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our behaviour and safeguarding policies.

### **Policy Development**

This policy was formulated in consultation with the whole school community with input from members of staff, governors, parents/carers, children and young people, and adapted from Nottingham City Council recommendations.

Pupils contributed to the development of the policy through the pupil council and parents are encouraged to read and feedback their thoughts by contacting the school for clarification or adjustment if they feel it necessary.

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

As a school we are firmly committed to creating a calm and safe environment which minimises the risk of incidents arising that might require the use of reasonable force. We use the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) curriculum to explore and strengthen emotional responses to situations to support incident prevention as well as resolution wherever behaviour is deemed unacceptable. This is done within tutor time as well as when our staff discuss specific behaviours with individuals.

We will only use force as a last resort and strongly believe in de-escalating any incidents as they arise to prevent them from reaching a crisis point. Staff will be skilled in promoting and rewarding positive behaviour and will utilise various appropriate techniques in the management of a class environment.

Staff will only physically intervene when the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved by not using reasonable force in this way.

## **Staff Authorised to Use Reasonable Force**

Under Section 93 of the Education and Inspection Act (2006) the head teacher of our school is empowered to authorise those members of his/her staff who are enabled to use reasonable force.

Here at Djanogly City Academy the head teacher has empowered the following members of staff to use reasonable force:

- Teachers and any member of staff who has control or charge of pupils in a given lesson or circumstance have permanent authorisation.
- Other members of staff such as site management and administrative teams also have the power to use reasonable force if a circumstance should arise in which immediate action should be taken.

## **Deciding Whether to Use Reasonable Force**

Under English law, members of staff are empowered to use reasonable force to prevent a pupil from or stop them continuing to:

- commit any offence;
- cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil themselves); or,
- compromise the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

All members of staff will make decisions about when, how and why to use reasonable force. To help staff in making decisions about using reasonable force the following considerations may be useful:

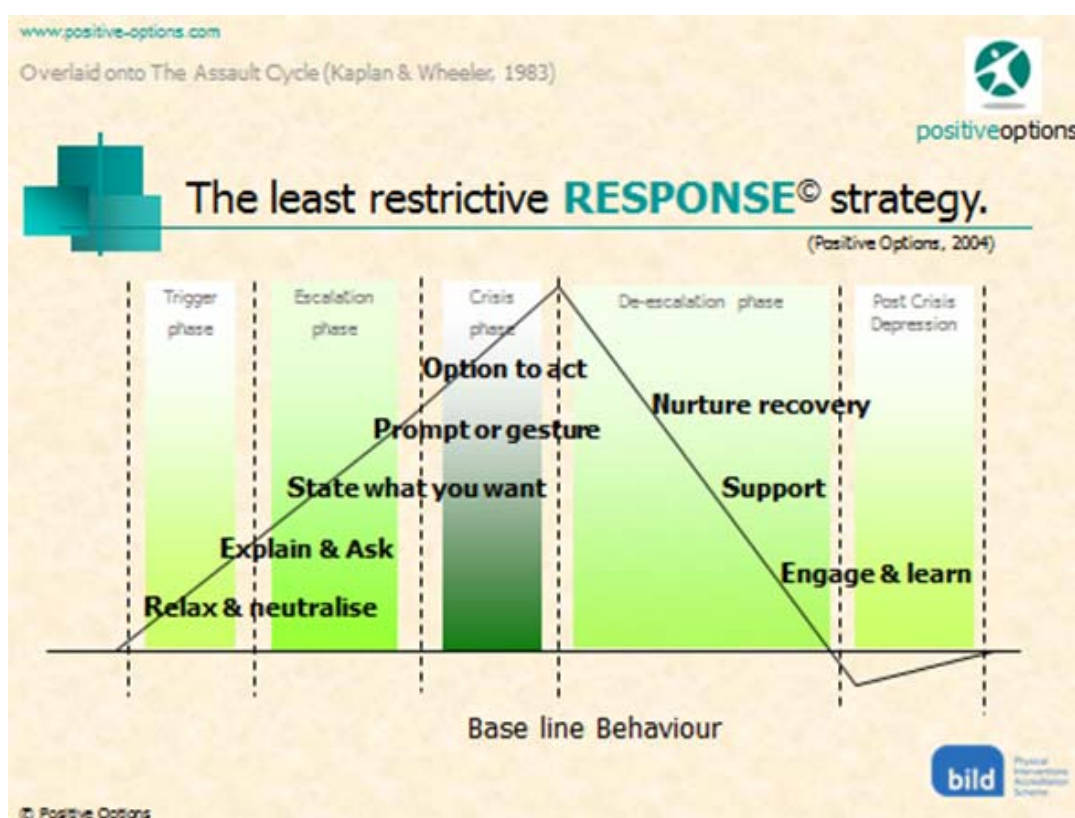
- whether the consequences of not intervening would have seriously endangered the wellbeing of a person;
- whether the consequences of not intervening would have caused serious and significant damage to property;
- whether the chance of achieving the desired outcome in a non-physical way was low;
- the age, size, gender, developmental maturity of the persons involved.

Staff are also expected to remember that physical intervention is only one option and for behaviours involving extreme levels of risk it may be more appropriate to gain support from other staff or agencies, including the police.

Staff will be kept informed and have a duty to inform others about the plans around specific pupils who can present risks to themselves and others. This may include information about SEN, personal circumstance and temporary upset.

## Using Reasonable Force

When using force members of staff should only use the minimum amount of force required in achieving the required outcome. Staff should also use force within the context of existing good practice in non-physical skills.



Staff should, where possible, avoid any type of intervention that is likely to injure a pupil, unless in the most extreme of circumstance where there was no viable alternative. Also staff should avoid using force unless or until another member of staff is present to support, observe or call for assistance.

## **Staff training**

Staff operating in our pastoral teams at Djanogly City Academy receive additional training in this area. This is provided through the Behaviour Support Team at the Glenbrook Management Centre.

These courses provide participants with an insight into recent legislation and guidance that could impact on policy and practice, as well as a range of physical and non-physical strategies to help manage the risks posed by children and young people's behaviour.

## **Recording and Reporting Incidents**

The governing body will ensure that a procedure is in place, and is followed by staff, for recording and reporting, incidents where a member of staff has used force on a pupil. The record must be made as soon as practicable after the incident.

In deciding whether or not an incident must be reported, staff should take into account:

- an incident where unreasonable use of force is used on a pupil should always be reported;
- any incident where substantial force has been used (e.g. physically pushing a pupil out of a room) should always be reported;
- the use of a restraint technique should always be reported;
- an incident where a child was very distressed (though clearly not over reacting) should always be reported.

Sometimes an incident might not be considered significant in itself, but forms part of a pattern of repeated behaviour. In this case, although there is no legal requirement to record such incidents, the school may report to parents to inform them and discuss the incident(s) in question.

Records are important in providing evidence of defensible decision-making in case of a subsequent complaint or investigation. Staff may find it helpful to seek the advice of a senior colleague or a representative of their trade union when compiling a report.

## **Post-incident support**

Following the use of physical intervention staff and pupils will be supported, the immediate physical needs of all parties will be met and staff will ensure that positive relationships are maintained.

## **Complaints and allegations**

We will make it clear to pupils that they have a right, and are able, to question/complain about the use of reasonable force.

We will ensure that mechanisms are in place for pupils, parents, carers and staff to voice the opinions, comments or concerns.

Complaints and allegations will be taken seriously and we will be addressed by the head teacher and senior leadership team working with other staff in school and in cooperation with any outside agencies wherever necessary.

## **Monitoring and review**

This policy will be monitored regularly and reviewed by the governing body at least annually or as required. This policy is due to be reviewed in February 2016.

The Head Teacher and chair of governors is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

## **Further information**

Can be found in the DfE Policy: Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) and any review of this policy will be taken in to consideration on its publication/revision point.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/339092/Restrictive-Physical-Intervention\\_Final-U.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/339092/Restrictive-Physical-Intervention_Final-U.pdf)