



PHYSICAL INTERVENTION AND REASONABLE FORCE POLICY

This is a Category 1 Policy (Full Delegation)

This policy is in force until further notice from:	Summer 2023
This policy must be reviewed by no later than*: <i>*This refers to the term in which the Policy must be reviewed by the appropriate Committee for recommendation to the Board.</i>	Autumn 2024

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1. Statement of Intent

1.1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Create a learning environment in which pupils and adults feel safe.
- Protect every person in the school community from harm.
- Protect all pupils against any form of physical intervention that is unnecessary, inappropriate, excessive or harmful.
- Put in place guidance for staff so that they are clear about the circumstances in which they might use reasonable force to restrain students and how such reasonable force might be applied.

1.2. Definition of

- 1.3.2. The School adheres to government non-statutory guidance and does not adopt a 'no contact' approach, as this breaches the 'duty of care' towards a pupil that all our staff hold within a school setting, or prevent them taking action needed to prevent a pupil causing harm. This guidance is based upon a number of principles. In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, this policy acknowledges that all pupils have a right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be protected from their own dangerous behaviour and that of others.
- 1.3.3. The Principals of Schools in the Avanti Trust will ensure that all staff are clear about what constitutes appropriate behaviour and professional boundaries. The maintenance of this good practice is important both to protect children and minimise the risk of allegations being made against staff.
- 1.3.4. Section 93, Education and Inspections Act 2006 sets out that all members of school staff have the legal power to use reasonable force to prevent students committing a criminal offence, injuring themselves or others or damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline. This power applies to any member of staff in the Avanti Schools Trust School. It can also apply to people whom the Principal has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.
- 1.3.5. The power may be used where the member of staff is lawfully in charge of the pupils, and this includes while on school trips. Staff members can sometimes be worried that using force will lead to false allegations of unreasonable or unlawful conduct in the form of a complaint or legal action. Where a member of staff has acted within the law – that is, they have used reasonable force in order to prevent injury, damage to property or disorder – this will provide a defence to any criminal prosecution or other civil or public law action. This policy and related use of force guidance is intended to help staff feel more confident about using their professional judgement when they think it is necessary and reasonable to use force.
- 1.3.6.

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- 2.9. The purpose of any intervention is to restore safety. Physical intervention i.e. to control or restrain, should not be continued for longer than is necessary.
- 2.10. Physical interventions should never be used in anger and staff should make every effort to avoid any injury to the pupil. Brief periods of withdrawal away from the point of conflict into a calmer environment may be more effective for an agitated pupil than holding to control a pupil or restrain them.

Some examples of situations where reasonable force might be used are:

	Examples
Where action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury	

		Other PI or further details: <i>(i.e where did you hold / how did you move the student away)</i>
Duration of hold:		
Description of how the incident was resolved / outcome:	Injuries / damage: <input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Property Include details:	
Post incident support / action taken for students and staff: <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviour Support Plan/ Individual Learning Plan/ Risk Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Review plans <input type="checkbox"/> Recovery time for staff <input type="checkbox"/> Recovery time for student <input type="checkbox"/> Parents / carers informed <input type="checkbox"/> Other agencies informed..... <input type="checkbox"/> Physical intervention record form completed		
Report completed by:	Signature:	Date:

Please scan a copy of this form and upload it to CPOMS