



**Sacred Heart**  
Catholic Primary School  
*Together we live and learn; we play and pray*

# Guidance for Physical Intervention

Reviewed March 2025

Date of next review March 2026

**Equality Act Statement:**

1. We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to age (as appropriate), disability, ethnicity, gender (including issues of transgender, and of maternity and pregnancy), religion and belief, and sexual identity.
2. We welcome our duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion.
3. We recognise that these duties reflect international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

Please refer to St John the Baptist Multi Academy Trust Equality & Diversity Policy

## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of producing this guidance is:

- to protect the interest, well-being and safety of pupils for whom staff have a shared responsibility
- to protect staff in the fulfilment of their responsibilities to pupils.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School recognises that there is a need, reflected in common law, to intervene when there is an obvious risk of safety to its pupils, staff and property. Staff with responsibility for children's safety and welfare will deal professionally with all incidents involving aggressive or reckless behaviour, and only use physical intervention as a last resort in line with DfE's advice. If used at all it will be in the context of a respectful, supportive relationship with the pupil. The aim will always be to ensure minimal risk of injury to pupils and staff.

Staff are committed to the safeguarding of our pupils and therefore will strive to achieve a best practice, where physical intervention is not necessary. The Senior Leadership Team, together with the SENCo will actively research, adopt and promote strategies to reduce physical intervention and positively influence behaviour.

The best practice regarding positive handling outlined herein should be considered alongside other relevant guidance/policies in the school, specifically those involving SEND, behaviour, bullying, child protection and health and safety.

## **2. School Expectations**

As a Catholic school we expect to see Christian attitudes forming the basis of the whole school ethos. High standards are set for behaviour where the whole community work together to promote thoughtfulness, honesty, fairness and kindness.

We recognise that positive professional relationships between all members of the school community are vital to provide an optimal learning environment. Behaviour expectations are clearly communicated in school to ensure the safety and well-being of every member of the school community.

It is acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances staff may need to take reasonable action in situations where physical intervention may be required. Staff must judge whether physical intervention would be reasonable or appropriate in relation to the:

- risk to the safety of the pupil concerned
- risk to the safety of staff, other pupils or visitors
- Physical contact, to ensure the safety of the pupil or others, may occur through:
  - Passive physical contact, for example, as a result of staff blocking a pupil's path.
  - Active physical contact or intervention:
    - to break up a violent interaction between 2 pupils
    - to guide a pupil to safety
    - restrain a pupil to prevent further violence or injury to themselves or others.

Staff will view physical intervention of all pupils as a last resort to maintaining a safe environment. If pupils are behaving disruptively or anti-socially, every effort will be made to manage behaviour positively to prevent a deterioration of the situation and to restore a safe, secure environment. Where possible staff will attract the attention of others to avoid acting alone.

A behaviour plan will be drawn up if a pupil displays dysregulated behaviours in school over a period. This details ways to de-escalate behaviours and all staff must follow this first and foremost. Parents will be made aware of the plan and will be able to contribute to it.

If physical intervention is required routinely for a pupil with additional needs this will be discussed with parents and detail of the intervention expected will be detailed on an individual behaviour record or assess plan do review document.

### **3. Recording an Incident**

All incidents that result in physical intervention being used will be reported immediately using CPOMS. Details of the physical intervention used must be comprehensive and include use of the body map. All staff involved either directly or as witnesses should be recorded in the main section. This should be assigned to the head teacher, with other members of the safeguarding team being alerted.

### **Post Incident Support**

Staff will ensure that the pupil and the member(s) of staff involved have immediate access to first aid for any signs of injury. This must be recorded appropriately (see first aid guidance). The pupil will be given time to become calm while staff continue to supervise him/her. When the pupil regains complete composure, a senior member of staff (or his/her nominee) will discuss the incident with the pupil and try to ascertain the reason for its occurrence. The pupil will be given an opportunity to explain things from his/her point of view. We will take all necessary steps to re-establish the relationship between the pupil and the member(s) of staff involved in the incident as soon as practicable.

All members of staff involved will be allowed a period to debrief and recover from the incident.

This may involve access to external support. A senior member of our staff (or his/her nominee) will provide support to the member of staff involved.

We will inform parents/carers of any incident involving physical intervention as soon as possible after the incident and whenever practicable on the day of the incident before the child arrives home. In exceptional circumstances we shall also inform the parents of children who have witnessed the event about the situation.

The Headteacher will analyse the circumstances of the incident with senior members of staff as soon as possible and decide about any necessary actions or changes to procedure as a result.

### **4. Training Needs of Staff**

At least one senior member of staff will attend relevant training on physical intervention and will keep their training updated.

In cases where it is known that a pupil may, on occasions, require physical intervention, we will ensure that appropriate training is provided for relevant staff (both teaching and support staff) by accredited trainers.

### **5. Responding to complaints**

The St John the Baptist Catholic Multi-academy Trust Complaints Policy must be followed.