



St Crispin's School Policy

Physical Intervention Policy

Version No.	Date created	Changes or reason for update	Date approved
V1	3/2009	First Issue	10/2009
V2	5/2011	Reviewed – no changes proposed	23/05/11
V3	2/2012	Reviewed – minor clarifications	19/03/12
V4	2/2014	Reviewed – minor changes, updated list of staff Team teach-qualified	03/2014
V5	6/2015	Reviewed – minor changes	07/2015

Next Review of this Policy is due 02/2018



1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

1.1 This policy explains the options and strategies open to staff when deciding how to intervene physically with students, in accordance with the principles outlined in Section 2. Further guidance is provided in Appendix 1. It is important for all staff to summon support as soon as possible and never put themselves or other students at risk.

1.2 Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Power of members of staff to use force) is relevant and authoritative.

(1) *A member of the staff of an institution which may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances for the purpose of preventing a student at the institution from doing (or continuing to do) any of the following, namely-*

(a) *committing any offence,*

(b) *causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student himself), or*

(c) *prejudicing the maintenance of good order to discipline at the institution or among any of its students, whether during a teaching session or otherwise*

(1) The power conferred by subsection (1) may be exercised only where-

(a) the member of the staff and the student are on the premises of the institution, or

(b) they are elsewhere and the member of the staff has lawful control or charge of the student

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 The principles relating to the use of physical restraint are:

- Every effort should be made to summon assistance as soon as possible.
- Staff should have reasonable grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary to prevent a student from significantly injuring him/herself or others, or causing serious damage to property.
- Staff should try to avoid the need for physical restraint e.g. through dialogue and diversion; and should warn the student that physical restraint will be used unless the student desists. Only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage should be applied.



- As soon as it is safe, restraint should be gradually relaxed to allow the student to regain self-control.
- Restraint should be an act of care and control, not punishment.

- Physical restraint should not be used to force compliance with staff instructions when there is no immediate risk to people or property.
- In circumstances where staff believe they and others may be at risk, they should try to remove those parties from the situation and summon assistance.
- Staff must avoid unnecessary physical contact.

In addition, authorised staff (See Appendix 1 - 4.1) should try to anticipate potential risks seek to take steps in advance so as to minimise the need for physical restraint eg through a discussion of this policy and the steps and circumstances leading to physical intervention.

3. Recording incidents

3.1 Any incident, where it has been necessary for a member of staff to use physical intervention to control or restrain a student, should be reported to his/her Line Manager immediately. It is important to follow this up in writing as soon as possible to include:

- the name(s) of the student(s) involved;
- when and where the incident took place;
- the name(s) of any other staff or students who witnessed the incident;
- the reason that physical intervention was necessary, with details of the degree of force used, if any, and for how long;
- how the incident began and progressed;
- details of the student's behaviour; what was said by the parties; any steps taken to de-fuse or calm the situation;
- the student's response, and the outcome of the incident;
- details of any injury suffered by the student/another student/any member of staff, and any damage to property.

3.2 Staff may find it helpful to seek advice from a senior colleague when writing a report and should keep a copy for their own records.

4. Dealing with complaints

4.1 Students and their families have a right of complaint about actions taken by St Crispin's staff, including the use of force. The School believes that it is in everyone's



interest to resolve complaints quickly, and preferably by informal means. Where this is not possible, the formal School Complaints Policy and procedures will be triggered.



Appendix 1

Guidance for staff: in what circumstances should I physically intervene to control or restrain students?

1.1 Broadly speaking, the circumstances in which physical intervention may be necessary fall into the following categories:

- a) Where action is necessary in self-defence or where there is an imminent or significant risk of injury or significant damage to property.

Examples of such situations include - but are not limited to:

- where a student attacks a staff member or a fellow student;
- where students are fighting;
- where a student is engaged in, or on the verge of, deliberately damaging or vandalizing property;
- where a student is causing or at risk of causing injury or damage by accident, rough play or by misuse of materials or objects; or
- where a student is behaving in a way which might cause an accident to either him/herself or others.

- a) Where a student is behaving in a way which is compromising good order and discipline, an authorized member of staff must be summoned after routine application of the behaviour policy.

Examples of such situations include - but are not limited to:

- where a student persistently refuses to obey an instruction to leave a teaching session, or
- where a student is behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting a teaching session.

2. Guidance: what level of physical intervention will be regarded as “reasonable in all the circumstances”?

2.1 There is no legal definition of what constitutes “reasonable force” and it is not possible to set out comprehensively when it will be appropriate to use force, or what degree of force should be used. It will always depend on all the circumstances of the case.



- 2.2 However, physical intervention will be regarded as “reasonable” only if the circumstances of the particular incident call for a proportionate level of force to be used. This will vary according to the nature of each particular incident; and members of staff should take into account a student’s age, and sex when assessing the correct level of force to be used to control or restrain a student.
- 2.3 In all uses of physical intervention, the minimum level of force possible should be used to resolve the situation.
- 2.4 The member(s) of staff should approach a student calmly with the aim of lowering his/her level of anxiety. They should explain that they may have to use intervention physically to control or restrain the student if he/she does not stop such behaviour. If physical intervention does then become necessary, the member of staff should continue to communicate with the student throughout the incident, making it clear that the physical intervention will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary. A calm and measured approach is needed and a member of staff must never give the impression that he/she has lost his/her temper, is acting out of anger, or frustration or is punishing the student in any way.
- 2.5 In certain situations, it may be necessary for a member of staff to seek help from colleagues or even summon the police. However, no students should be involved in assisting a member of staff in using force to control or restrain another student.

3 Guidance: what sort of physical intervention should be used to deal with an incident?

- 3.1 Physical intervention can take several forms. It might involve members of staff:
- physically interposing between students;
 - blocking a student’s path;
 - holding;
 - pushing;
 - pulling;
 - leading a student by the hand or arm;
 - shepherding a student away by placing a hand in the centre of the back;
- or
- (in extreme circumstances) using more restrictive holds.
- 3.2 If physical intervention is required, then the ***minimum level of force possible*** must be employed for the ***minimum length of time possible***.



3.3 Members of staff should never physically intervene in any way that could reasonably be expected to cause injury to a student. For example, the following types of physical intervention should **not** be employed:

- hitting, slapping punching or kicking the student;
- twisting or forcing the student's limbs;
- tripping up or holding a student face down on the ground;
- holding or pulling a student by the hair or ear;
- holding a student around the neck, by the collar or in any other way that might restrict the student's breathing;
- holding or touching a student in any way that might be considered indecent or which involves any contact with sexually sensitive areas;
- any other action which could be constructed as deliberately inflicting pain on the student.

4 Authorised Personnel

- 4.1 Personnel with a specific responsibility for the school's physical restraint policy, as identified and authorized by the Head teacher.
- 4.2 A list of authorised personnel who have completed the 'Team Teach' Course is held in the school office.