



Positive Touch Policy 2023

Next review: Autumn 2025

Hurst Green School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Policy for Positive Touch and the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention

Staff at Hurst Green Infant and Nursery believe that pupils need to be safe, know how to behave, and know that the adults around them are able to manage them safely and confidently. There are occasions when, for a very small minority of pupils, the use of restrictive physical intervention may be needed.

Acceptable forms of intervention/touch

It is sometimes necessary for staff to have physical contact with a pupil when they are in distress or need to be moved, during PE and Drama and in an emergency to avert danger. In these situations staff may decide to lead a pupil by the arm or place a hand on the shoulder.

In rare circumstances, staff may find it necessary to use reasonable force to control or restrain a pupil. This can be when a pupil engages in any behaviour that is prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at school, when a pupil attacks another pupil or adult, when a pupil deliberately damages school property, or where a pupil is acting in a dangerous manner likely to cause injury to themselves or others.

There is no definition of 'reasonable force' but 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 proportionate to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent.

The safety and welfare of all pupils and staff is an important consideration and the school's duty of care must be an over-riding factor.

Who may use Restrictive Physical Intervention?

All teaching and support staff at Hurst Green Infant and Nursery school have received up to date training in Positive Touch approaches.

Planning for the use of Restrictive Physical Interventions

Staff will use the reasonable force needed to restore safety and appropriate behaviour by following the following principles:

- Restrictive Physical Intervention is an act of care and control, not punishment.
- It will only be used when staff believe that immediate action is necessary in the pupil's/other pupils' best interests.
- Staff will take steps in advance to avoid the need for Restrictive Physical Intervention by attempting de-escalation of incidents through dialogue and diversion at the level of understanding of the child.
- Only the reasonable force will be used to prevent severe distress, injury or damage.
- Staff will be able to show that the intervention used was in keeping with the incident.

- 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 a pupil has regained composure, any intervention will be relaxed. Escalation will be avoided at all costs.
- The age and level of understanding of the pupil, will always be taken into account.
- Consideration will be given to an individual pupil's circumstances and reference made to any Risk Assessment in place and in the case of SEN pupils their IEP, one page profile or Education and Health Care Plan
- Following any incident support will be given to safeguard the emotional well-being of all involved.

Monitoring and Review

Members of staff involved in an incident, where Restrictive Physical Intervention has been used, will record details on CPOMS. This will immediately alert the Headteacher who will arrange a debriefing conversation and contact the pupil's parents. The pupil involved will require a risk assessment to be completed or up dated if they already have one. A termly Monitoring Report will be completed.

Complaints

It is intended, that by adopting this policy and keeping parents and governors informed complaints will be avoided. If a complaint is made, the school's Complaints Policy will be followed

Links with other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with our school:

- Behaviour Policy,
- Anti-bullying Policy,
- Child Protection Policy,
- Intimate Care Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy

Please also refer to Surrey guidance on 'Touch and the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention when working with children and Young People'