



Coates Lane Primary School **Care and Control Policy**

This policy has been re-written as a result of the guidance for The Use of Physical Intervention in Schools (02.11.07).

The Headteacher of Coates Lane Primary School can, and does, under the Education Act 1996, authorise all teachers and other members of staff in the school to use physical intervention under the following guidance:

Any Physical Interventions should always be designed to achieve outcomes that reflect the best interests of the child or adult whose behaviour is of immediate concern and others affected by the behaviour requiring intervention. The decision to use a physical intervention must take account of the circumstances and be based upon an assessment of the risks associated with the intervention compared with the risks of not employing physical intervention. A restrictive physical intervention must only employ a reasonable amount of force – that is the minimum force needed to avert injury/damage to property or to prevent a breakdown of discipline and should only be applied for the shortest period of time.

General

Physical Intervention can be used in the following circumstances

- Where a criminal offence is being committed
- Where children may injure themselves or others
- Where the behaviour is prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at our school
- When action occurs on the school premises or during an authorised activity off the premises

There are three broad categories where Physical Intervention may be used at Coates Lane Primary School:

- 1 In self-defence, where risk of injury is imminent
- 2 Where there is a developing risk of injury or significant damage to property
- 3 Where good order and discipline are compromised

Definition of Physical Intervention:

If you intervene physically to prevent children from doing something they want (hitting someone) or something they do not want ((to follow instructions e.g. come inside)

- If the circumstances of the particular incident warrant it
- The degree of 'force' must be in proportion to the circumstances
- The age, understanding and sex of the child

A minimum of physical 'force' should only be used and never as a punishment.

Physical intervention can take a number of forms:

- Physically interposing between children
- Standing in the way of a child
- Holding, pushing or pulling
- Leading a child away from an incident by the hand or by gentle pressure on the centre of the back
- In extreme cases, more restrictive holds may be used (only specially trained staff)

Physical Intervention that should NOT be used includes:

- Holding around the neck or any other hold that might restrict breathing
- Kicking, slapping or punching
- Forcing limbs against joints (e.g. arm lock)
- Tripping or holding by the hair or ear
- Holding face down on the ground

All incidents when Physical Intervention is used must be recorded as soon as possible and within 24 hours of the incident. The following information should be detailed on a RF1 form kept in Mrs White's office or in the Incident Book together with written statements of any witnesses.

Where the incident has been prolonged or where considerable physical intervention has been used, the following details should also be recorded:

- Names and addresses of witnesses
- Signed witness statements
- The reason for 'physical intervention' being used
- A description of the way in which the incident developed
- The child's response
- Details of the outcomes of the incident including any injuries and damage (using a skin map for clarification. Copy attached)

Following the detailed recording of serious incidents, Mrs White will:

- Read all accounts
- Interview all staff (both teaching and support) and children who witnessed the incident
- Discuss the incident with the child/children who were directly involved, if necessary children should provide a written statement
- Ensure that parents/guardians etc. have been informed

- Ensure that the LEA and the Chair of the Governing Body have had the incident drawn to their attention
- Ensure that all concerned are aware of their right to complain
- Review school policies and consider if they serve the best interests of all parties and whether alternative policies or changes to the existing policy need to be considered

Following an incident involving physical intervention by a member of staff involving a child, the school will monitor the effects of the incident on the child as well as on the member of staff.

Special Educational Needs

Cases of children with special needs, or who provoke confrontation as a means of seeking attention, or who are testing the boundaries of our Discipline Policy, may require referral to, or consultation with, specialist agencies. Where it is known or anticipated that a child's behaviour might require physical intervention, a specific plan will be drawn up and communicated to parents, staff and children. Any additional training will be given to the members of staff who would be managing such behaviour.

All members of staff will have timely updates regarding Physical Intervention in School.

Other persons involved may require post-trauma counselling and their reactions should be monitored as a matter of routine. Specialist help should be sought wherever possible.

In all cases we must remember that in school we have a:

'Duty of Care',