



Leighfield
Primary School

Learning for Life

**Addendum: Physical
Intervention Procedures
COVID-19 school closure**

June 2020

This addendum should be read in conjunction with the school's Physical Intervention Policy.

From 1st June 2020, the Government has asked for schools to re-open to EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils, in addition to increasing the number of key worker children. With more children on site, adaptations need to be made to the current physical intervention policy so that it is fit for purpose. The Physical Intervention Policy will remain the same with the following caveats in place:

1. Context

From 1st June 2020, EYFS, Year 1, Year 6, vulnerable children and children of critical workers are reintegrated back to school following the following Government Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/details-on-phased-wider-opening-of-schools-colleges-and-nurseries>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

This annex to the school Physical Intervention Policy reflects new protective measures and arrangements implemented in response to COVID-19. All other provisions in the Physical Intervention Policy remain in force.

2. Protective Measures

School staff can use reasonable force to either control or restrain pupils. A number of staff members have MAPA training (Management of Actual or Potential Aggression). For those pupils that have a Positive Handling Plan (PHP), a risk assessment for returning to school will be completed. This risk assessment will directly address the risks associated with the pupil's behaviours and coronavirus, so that sensible measures can be put in place to control the risks for pupils and staff. Following completing the risk assessments, schools will need to update the pupil's PHP and share both the risk assessment and PHP with parents/carers.

Due to COVID-19 and following guidance from the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI), parents/carers will have a responsibility to come to the school to help de-escalate a situation if handling becomes a probable action. If parents do not arrive before the risk of harm to self/others becomes great, pupils will be handled as detailed in their PHP.

If physical intervention is necessary due to challenging behaviour, ideally staff should wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including aprons, gloves and masks. However, staff may not have time to put PPE on if the pupil is hurting themselves and/or others, absconding and/or putting themselves and/or others at risk. Therefore, staff will take extra hygiene precautions in light of COVID-19, this includes MAPA-trained adults and pupils with a PHP having a change of clothes within school and washing of exposed area (including pupil's arms, where they've been held), after de-escalation.

MAPA trained staff will be trained in the correct use of PPE. PPE will be stored in each classroom, the First Aid area and the main office, so MAPA-trained staff can access PPE easily if necessary.

The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the member of staff concerned and has to be judged on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances. Our Physical Intervention Policy contains further details.

Safe Spaces

The ELSA room will not be open during the reduced reopening. Where possible all 'bubbles' are asked to provide a safe space within the classroom and also to provide a space within the bubble outdoor area.

If a pupil is needing to use a space due to feelings of high anxiety, anger or aggression, firstly, the bubble leader will assess whether the pupil's behaviour is escalating or de-escalating. The pupil will be directed to use the safe space within the classroom or outdoor space. At this point, the bubble leader will alert a member of SLT to attend the bubble concerned.

MAPA

MAPA-trained staff will always be on site, though may not necessarily be working in the area where they may be needed. If a MAPA alert is made, the MAPA staff will immediately be freed up to attend the situation. This includes preparation through the correct use of PPE.

It is paramount that MAPA is used only as a very last resort, in an emergency. This means that where normally, school would be able to manage a pupil's behaviours for longer, due to the risks presented from Covid-19, the school would need to reduce the need for staff having to use MAPA. Thus, if it is felt that the pupil is unable to manage their behaviours safely, the school will phone parents to come and collect the pupil.

The Headteacher or SENDCo will follow up with a telephone call in order to manage how to reintegrate the pupil the following day and discuss what, if any, measures can be put in place to prevent the pupil from reaching crisis again.

If the situation has escalated to the point that MAPA is used, MAPA staff will hold the pupil until calm in the area they are in. MAPA staff will remain with the pupil and bubble leader until a parent arrives.

3. Recording and monitoring

Incidents of restraints or disengagements must be recorded by staff, using the agreed Hold Till Calm (HTC) form kept on the school server.

Parents/Carers will be contacted prior to physical intervention taking place to inform them that their child's behaviour is escalating. When Parents/Carers arrive at school the following information must be provided:

- When and where the incident took place
- Why physical intervention was used
- What physical intervention was used
- Whether there were any injuries
- What follow up action (support and /or disciplinary) was being taken in relation to their child

4. Positive Handling Plans

Where specified in a risk assessment or after any incidence of restraint, a Positive Handling Plan (PHP) must be drawn up by the SENDCo and other relevant staff, using the agreed school proforma updated for COVID-19 – Appendix 3.

PHPs are working documents and must be reviewed by the SENCO and other relevant staff regularly to ensure that they are still effective and take into account the relevant needs of individuals.

5. Roles and responsibilities

The Advisory Board:

The Advisory Board helps set down general guidelines on standards of discipline and behaviour, and, are kept informed of any restraints.

Headteacher:

The Headteacher has the responsibility for informing the Advisory Board of the rate of incidents of restraint on a termly basis. The Headteacher will read and enforce the school's Physical Intervention Policy to ensure pupils and staff are kept safe.

SENCO:

The SENCO will monitor PHP and risk assessments on a regular basis and review these in line with the latest government advice and guidance and update parents/carers to these changes.

All staff:

All staff members will be trained in using PPE. MAPA trained staff will be required to bring in spare clothes in case PPE can't be accessed before physical intervention is necessary.

Where PPE has been used, staff will inform the office manager so PPE equipment can be replenished.

If a safe space has been used, staff involved in the physical intervention need to ensure the cleaning team are informed and no one enters the safe space until it has been cleaned thoroughly.

Where physical intervention has occurred, staff members are required to ensure washing of exposed areas (including pupil's arms) where they've been held, has taken place.

Record incidents of restraint using the agreed method on the school's incident HTC forms and inform incidents of restraint with parents/carers.

6. Review

This annex will be reviewed by DSAT Behaviour Lead and shared with headteachers and the Advisory Board in line with the latest government advice.