



Physical Interventions Policy

January 2025

Review by January 2026

1. Introduction

Thomas Johnson Lower School is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children and staff. Physical intervention is only used as a last resort, when all other strategies to manage behaviour have been exhausted or when there is an immediate risk of harm.

2. Purpose

This policy sets out the framework for the use of physical interventions to manage challenging behaviour safely, legally, and ethically, ensuring the dignity and rights of all children are respected.

3. Legal Framework

This policy complies with relevant legislation and guidance including:

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Education Act 1996 (Section 550A)
- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- The Equality Act 2010
- DfE guidance: Use of reasonable force (2013)
- OFSTED inspection framework requirements

4. Definitions

Physical Intervention: The use of any physical force with the intention of preventing a child from causing harm to themselves, others, or property.

Reasonable Force: The minimum force necessary to prevent harm or injury.

5. Principles

- Physical intervention will only be used when necessary, proportionate, and reasonable.
- The safety and dignity of the child will always be paramount.
- Staff will use de-escalation and positive behaviour management techniques to avoid physical intervention.
- Physical interventions will never be used as a form of punishment or discipline.
- All incidents will be recorded and reported in line with school procedures.

6. When Physical Intervention May Be Used

Physical intervention may be used:

- To prevent a child from hurting themselves or others.
- To prevent serious damage to property.
- To prevent a child from committing a criminal offence.
- To remove a disruptive child from a situation where they refuse to follow instructions.

7. Staff Training

- Only staff trained in approved physical intervention techniques (e.g., Team Teach) will use physical interventions.

- Regular refresher training will be provided to ensure skills and knowledge are up to date.
- Staff will be supported following any incident, including access to debrief and counselling if needed.

8. Procedures

- Staff will attempt to use de-escalation strategies before physical intervention.
- If physical intervention is necessary, it will be proportionate and the least restrictive method used.
- The intervention will cease as soon as the risk has passed.
- The child will be supported and reassured immediately after the intervention.

9. Recording and Reporting

- All incidents involving physical intervention must be recorded in the Physical Intervention Log within 24 hours.
- The record will include: date, time, location, reason for intervention, description of incident, staff involved, child's response, and any injuries.
- Parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible after the incident.
- The Headteacher will review all incidents to identify patterns and ensure compliance with the policy.

10. Monitoring and Review

- The policy will be reviewed annually or following any incident involving physical intervention.
- The Leadership Team will monitor the use of physical interventions and provide regular reports to the Governing Body.
- Feedback from staff, children, and parents will inform policy improvements.

11. Links to Other Policies

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct