

Physical Intervention Policy

Staff will use physical interventions only as a last resort and only then if they have reasonable grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary to prevent a child from significantly injuring themselves or others or to prevent serious damage to property.

Before reaching this stage, staff will have used all possible non-physical actions, such as dialogue and diversion, to deal with the behaviour. The child or children concerned will be warned verbally that physical intervention will be used if they do not stop.

A dialogue will be maintained with the child or children at all times, so that the member of staff can explain what they are doing and why they are doing it. Staff will make every effort to avoid the use of physical interventions if they are alone with the child or children.

Only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage should be applied. For example, by diverting a child or children by leading them away by a hand or by an arm around their shoulders.

Staff will use physical intervention as an act of care and control and never punishment.

Physical interventions will not be used purely to force a child to do what they have been told and when there is no immediate risk to people or property. As soon as it is safe, the physical intervention should be gradually relaxed to allow the child or children to regain self-control. The force of the physical intervention will be always appropriate to the age, size and strength of the child or children involved. If staff are not confident about their ability to contain a particular situation or type of behaviour, consideration will be given to calling a member of the Senior Leadership Team, Crawley Ridge Junior School or, in very extreme cases, the police.

Where a member of staff has had to intervene physically to restrain a child, the Lead Playworker and a member of the Senior Leadership Team at Crawley Ridge Junior School will be notified and the incident recorded in the Incident Record Book.

The incident will be discussed with the parent/carer at the earliest possible opportunity. If a staff member commits any act of violence or abuse towards a child at Graitney, serious disciplinary action will be implemented, according to the provisions of the Staff Disciplinary Procedures Policy.