



## Physical Intervention Policy

### Policy statement

Little Elms implements a policy for Promoting Positive Behaviour. It is our aim to establish and continuously promote positive behaviour from children in a caring and supportive environment where the welfare of the children is paramount.

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures to be followed in the rare case of a restrictive physical intervention being used by a member of staff towards a child.

The use of physical intervention is always a last resort, however, where necessary and appropriate, physical intervention may be required to prevent injury or destruction of property.

### What is Physical Intervention?

Physical intervention is where practitioners use reasonable force to prevent children from injuring themselves, others, or damaging property.

### Key Messages & Procedures

Physical intervention must be used as last resort to support children and young people in times of crisis. Any form of restraint will be avoided wherever possible. Physical intervention is **never** a substitute for good behaviour management.

Other methods (such as defusing conflict, non-physical calming, etc) of managing the situation must always be tried first, unless this is impractical.

The degree of force used should be the **minimum needed** to achieve the desired result. Physical restraint should only be considered an option if:

- Calming and defusing strategies have failed to de-escalate the situation
- The response is in the paramount interests of the young person
- Not intervening is likely to result in more dangerous consequences than intervening.

### Using Force

Before using force, staff will, wherever practicable, tell the child to stop the unwanted behaviour and communicate in a calm and measured manner throughout the incident. Staff will never give the impression of acting out of anger or frustration or to punish a child and must make it clear that physical contact or restraint will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary.

Certain types of physical contact to “punish a child or cause pain, injury or humiliation” is explicitly forbidden (Educational Act 1996). Examples of this contact would be as follows:

- Kicking, slapping, punching
- Tripping
- Holding child face down to the ground
- Any contact/hold that may restrict breathing/airways
- Forcing limbs against their joint



In all incidents where physical intervention has been used, the following actions must be taken:

- The manager must be informed as soon as possible.
- The manager must inform the parent as soon as possible.
- Staff involved must complete a Physical Intervention Form.

*Associated Documents:*

- *Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy*
- *Physical Intervention Form*