

## **PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY**

### **AIM/PURPOSE**

The main aim of the policy is to ensure that staff have clear guidelines, are aware of their responsibilities and are able to ensure the safety of students and themselves.

### **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

The right of teachers to use reasonable force is laid down in legislation. Legally, the guiding principle is that teachers may use a level of force proportionate to the possible consequences of a situation. If, for example, a student attacks another child, a member of staff is entitled to use greater force to stop them than if the child was just pulling the other child's hair. If physical intervention is used, it needs to be in a reasonable and proportionate way.

It is the express intention of the school that all members of staff are empowered to intervene in any situation involving students with due regard to the information outlined in this policy.

### **PHYSICAL INTERVENTION AT TRINITY CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

Staff need to ensure that all other means to de-escalate a situation have been used. If force is necessary, then a member of staff should ideally send for support: the more teachers who are present, the better. The member of staff involved should try to keep talking, in a calm voice, explaining what is happening and why. That way, it is clear to everyone that the teacher is in control. The incident should be "logged" afterwards. While using force can cause complications, so too can standing by and doing nothing, since the duty of care law requires a member of staff to do all that is reasonably expected to protect children's welfare.

There are important rules that all members of staff should know: don't pin children to the ground, don't obstruct their breathing and never apply pressure to joints. Key points are as follows:

- ◆ We do not adopt a 'no-contact' policy.
- ◆ It is unlawful to use force as a means of punishment.
- ◆ Members of staff have a duty of care to pupils, but are not required to put their own safety at risk.
- ◆ Reasonable force may be used to prevent pupils committing a criminal offence, injuring themselves or others or damaging property.
- ◆ Physical intervention may also be used to maintain good order and discipline, e.g. shepherding a child back to his or her work.
- ◆ Incidents where force is used should be "logged" and parents informed, preferably by a phone call.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

This will involve key personnel including the Leadership Team, those with significant pastoral responsibility and representatives of the wider staff.

Changes to the policy will be the responsibility of the Governors' Personnel Committee and ratified by the Full Governing Body.