



Discovery Schools
Academy Trust



Merrydale
Junior School
Be the Best you can Be

Annex: Supplemental Physical Intervention Policy during the reopening of schools May 2020

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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 Team Teach training we also have staff members with 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 pupils 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 pupils PHP and share both the risk assessment and PHP with parents/carers.

Due to COVID-19 and following guidance from CPI parents/carers will have a responsibility to come 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 adults MAPA or Team Teach trained 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.

Staff Team Teach or MAPA trained will be trained in the correct use of PPE. PPE will be stored in each classroom, the pastoral office, SLT office and the main office so staff Team Teach trained 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.

3. Training of staff

The school has adopted the techniques of Pivotal MAPA (Management of Actual or Potential Aggression) as well as Team Teach. Staff members have received Team Teach training which is refreshed bi-annually,). Key staff members have received MAPA training which is refreshed annually – see Appendix 2. If a member of staffs training has lapsed, they have a 3-month period where they are still trained. Team Teach instructors can offer advice to schools with regards to physical intervention. Pivotal MAPA instructors can also offer advice to schools with regards to physical intervention.

4. Safe Spaces

At Merrydale there is a pastoral room in which children can safely calm from crisis behaviours and/or are feeling anxious and need a room to calm down. This space is viewed as a safe environment for children to calm from crisis. If a child needs to use the safe space this will be cleaned after use following the schools deep cleaning schedule. This will include, cleaning door handles with disinfectant wipes/solution.

5. 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

6. 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.

PHP's are working documents and must be reviewed by the SENDCo, Inclusion Manager and other relevant staff regularly to ensure that they are still effective and take into account relevant needs of individuals.

7. 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 Head Teacher will read and enforce the school's Physical Intervention Policy to ensure pupils and staff are kept safe.

SENDCO:

SENDCO 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. Team Teach 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.

Ideally staff should wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including aprons, gloves and masks.

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 restraints with parents/carers.

8. 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.

Appendix 1: Example Risk Assessment

Appendix 2: Staff members MAPA trained

Staff Name	Role/Year Group	Expiry Date

Appendix 3: Updated PHP – COVID-19

 Merrydale Junior School Be the Best you can Be		MAPA – Positive Handling Plan	
Pupil Name: xxxxxxxxx		DOB: 00.0.0000	
Date of Plan: Updated:		Review Date of PHP:	
COVID-19 UPDATE: 29/04/2020: Parents to be called if behaviour escalates and handling becomes a probable action. If parents do not arrive before the risk of harm to self/others becomes great, pupil to be handled as detailed below. Staff will take extra hygiene precautions in light of COVID-19, this includes adults handling children having a change of clothes within school and washing of exposed area (including pupil's arms, where they've been held) after de-escalation.			
What are common triggers, contexts or environmental factors which have led to a dangerous situation in the past? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Tasks • Being hurt by another child accidentally or deliberately • Feeling hungry • Following adult instructions when he feels he doesn't want to / can't do so • Unstructured activities – both social times and during transition in class and around school • Assembly (****'s choice whether he attends). • Constructive criticism or any form of challenge • Something happening at home • Incident during break/lunchtime • Forgetting his PE kit 			
What does the behaviour look like?			
Escalating Behaviours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switching off to adults and simply not responding to instructions • Distracting others from their learning by wandering around the classroom and interfering in their tasks. 		Crisis Behaviours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tearful • Anger • Pushing chairs and tables • Running out of the classroom 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throwing equipment • Shouting out and over staff • Leaving the classroom • Drawing on himself • Trying to harm himself with a ruler • Putting his hood up and not engaging • Trying to climb in dangerous places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopping children and adults entering or leaving the environment • Hitting out at those within his reach (both staff and peers) • Locking himself in the toilet. • Escaping through windows • Climbing on top of lockers, bookshelves and buildings outside
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Key adults who may support:

De-escalation skills	Try	Avoid	Notes
Verbal advice and support			It is important that **** is encouraged to make the correct choices even when he is escalating his behaviours as **** will not process lots of language at this time. Use small step targets to support him.
Giving space			**** will have already been offered this as part of the trying to prevent crisis happening strategies - he will have already been offered options to have his own space outside the classroom.
Reassurance			When **** is becoming more agitated it is important to reassure him that it is not the end of the world and we are here to help him make the right choices, offering him an alternative.
Help scripts			It is important to be consistent in the messages that we use with ****, for example: "We are here to help you ****" etc...
Negotiation			Negotiation is sometimes required to get **** back on task. Break each lesson into small chunks, giving **** chance to have a positive time in class.
Choices			Give limited choices to **** as this makes it easier for him to make an informed choice.
Humour			Humour doesn't always work with **** but try. It is important you know what interests **** as this helps to calm him down in crisis. For example, pets and Xbox.
Consequences			Consequences work with ****, but make sure that he is calm and understands why the consequences have been put into place and follow his LES plan.
Planned ignoring			This can escalate his behaviour try to de-escalate the situation through using distraction or giving a choice and providing take-up time.
Take up time			Unless in a dangerous situation do not expect an immediate response to an instruction, request or question. Give **** take up time to respond and

			then check in in with him a short while later. It does not help **** if adults wait over him as it can raise his anxieties. If he doesn't respond remain calm and introduce choices and consequences etc...
Time-out/time away/out of class			This works well but it can take a long time for **** to return to class. Sometimes it its best just to leave **** and give him space.
Supportive touch			This can further escalate ****'s behaviour so nedts to be avoid.
Transfer adult (fresh face)			**** responds to key staff as stated above so where possibly make sure one of these are there. **** responds well to a change of face immediately.
Success reminded			**** likes success, so it is important on re-entering the classroom **** is clear in what he is expected to do. Make it clear it is a fresh start and give **** a clear success reminder, for example, we have 15 minutes left I need you to complete 4 questions.
Simple listening			Keep language to a minimum to allow simple listening. Our listening needs to be non-judgemental, if you know the facts, listen to **** first and then support him in understanding his actions and the consequence given and how we can move on.
Acknowledgement			Always acknowledge how **** is feeling and explain that we can work together to sort this out, but we need to be calm first. Encourage **** to use words which explain his feelings. For example; '**** I can see you are angry, That is ok, but it is not ok to.....'
Apologising			We are supporting **** to 'fix and mend' the damage he has done. It is important that we use this strategy to demarcate the end of an incident. If **** is unable to apologise for whatever reason, try using a sorry letter in staff pigeon holes or for a child drawing a picture to give to them.
Agreeing			If ****'s perception is that someone triggered his behaviour, agree with his point of view but then go onto unpick it to show that his actions where not proportionate to the event. If others have done wrong explain to ****, their consequences as well as his.

Removing audience			**** will often remove himself from the classroom. If not, the key adults will need ask the other children to leave the area.
Others			Try giving **** something to fiddle with from his own fidget box if he is showing signs of escalations but make sure its soft e.g. soft toy/stress ball
Diversions and distractions (Describe interest, words, objects etc. which may divert attention away from an escalating crisis) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversation of interests (Xbox, Pets etc.) • Computer (will need be wiped down after use) • Going outside with a ball • Class motivators • Reminders to use his safe space (amphitheatre) 			
Praise points/potential strengths(Areas that can be developed further and built upon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful towards others • Having a job to do (**** is very eager to please) • Maths 			
Any medical conditions to be taken into account before using Physical interventions? None known			
Optional Physical Intervention to be used			
	Low	Medium	High
Disengagements	<i>If ****'s behaviour is starting to escalate, we will use escort to move **** to a safe environment. We will ensure that we block and move if strikes occur. If **** takes hold of wrist or hair, we will use pull/ push or lever technique to disengage.</i>		
Young Person Standing Hold	<i>This can be used to support **** in escorting him to a safe place when he is at crisis. It is important to risk assess the situation and use the lowest level of hold suitable for the time.</i>		
Young Person Seated Hold	<i>Wherever possible **** is escorted to a safe place and held in a seated position this will enable **** to regain control quicker. This was he can fix and mend sooner and return back to class without one incident ruining the rest of the day for him.</i>		
Infant Hold Standing			
Infant Seated Hold (on a chair)			
Infant Seated Hold (kneeling)			
Other	<i>When calm **** may ask to be left alone in the safe space. It is imperative that adults present continually check on ****, by opening the door slightly asking are you ready and responding appropriately to his answer. For example, Are you ready ****– No go away – Ok I'm here when you are I'll give you space.</i>		
Are there any factors to consider when debriefing? E.g. communication aids, staff etc. It is important to debrief with ****, clearly talking with **** where his choices went wrong and what he could do next time. **** also needs to take ownership of his behaviours and time should be taken to explain how we can mend what we did wrong also that will try and think about our actions in future to prevent the same events occurring. It is important that he is set a learning task when returning to class which is small and achievable.			

How should we record incidents- who, when and how?

If a hold was used then a HTC form needs to be completed. This can be found on the shared drive under Behaviour Folder in Holding Till Calm Form folder. When completing remember to state facts only, be non-judgemental and use initials to show which staff members involved. Remember to explain escalation and crisis.

Parents need to be contacted if any restraints are used, including escorts.

Role	Name	Signature
Headteacher		
SENCO		
Parent/carers		