

Positive Handling Policy

November 2025

1. Introduction

This Positive Handling Policy outlines how **Stanley Grove Academy** promotes positive behaviour and manages situations where physical intervention may be necessary. The academy is committed to safeguarding the welfare, dignity and rights of all pupils and staff. Physical intervention is used **only as a last resort**, in line with legal guidance, recognised best practice and our Safer Handling training.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, SEND Policy and Health and Safety Policy.

2. Aims of the Policy

The aims of this policy are to:

- Promote a calm, safe and positive learning environment
 - Prevent situations escalating to the point where physical intervention is required
 - Ensure that any physical intervention is lawful, reasonable and proportionate
 - Protect pupils and staff from harm
 - Ensure clear recording, reporting and monitoring of incidents using **CPOMS**
 - Provide transparency for parents, carers and governors
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3. Legal Framework

This policy is informed by the following legislation and guidance:

- Education Act 1996
 - Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Section 93)
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education (current statutory guidance)
 - Use of Reasonable Force in Schools (DfE guidance)
 - Human Rights Act 1998
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4. Definition of Positive Handling

Positive handling refers to a range of strategies used to support pupils and keep them and others safe. These include:

- De-escalation and diffusion strategies
- Emotional regulation and supportive intervention
- Physical intervention (only when necessary)

Physical intervention means the use of reasonable force to prevent a pupil from:

- Causing harm to themselves or others
 - Committing a serious breach of behaviour that risks safety
 - Causing significant damage to property
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5. Principles Underpinning Positive Handling

All positive handling at **Stanley Grove Academy** is guided by the following principles:

- Physical intervention is a **last resort**
 - The least restrictive option is always used
 - Force used must be reasonable, proportionate and time-limited
 - Pupils are treated with respect and dignity at all times
 - Staff act in the best interests of the child
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6. Preventative Strategies

The academy prioritises prevention through:

- Consistent behaviour expectations
 - Strong relationships between staff and pupils
 - Use of individual behaviour plans and risk assessments where needed
 - Reasonable adjustments for pupils with SEND
 - Use of calming strategies, time-out, distraction and adult support
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7. Safer Handling Training

All staff involved in physical intervention receive **Safer Handling training** appropriate to their role. This training:

- Emphasises de-escalation and risk reduction
- Teaches approved, safe and non-pain compliant techniques

- Is refreshed regularly in line with academy and trust expectations

Only trained staff should use physical intervention, except in an emergency where untrained staff may act to prevent immediate harm.

8. When Physical Intervention may be used

Physical intervention may be used only when all other strategies have failed or are inappropriate, and when there is a significant risk of harm. Examples include:

- A pupil is at risk of injuring themselves
- A pupil is threatening or harming others
- A pupil is attempting to leave the site and is at risk
- Serious disruption that poses a safety risk

Physical intervention must **never** be used as a punishment or to enforce compliance.

9. Prohibited Practices

The following are not permitted:

- Deliberate infliction of pain
 - Restricting breathing or circulation
 - Holding a pupil in a way that causes humiliation or distress
 - Using physical intervention as a disciplinary sanction
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10. Recording and Reporting (CPOMS)

All incidents involving physical intervention must be recorded on **CPOMS** as soon as possible and within 24 hours. Records should include:

- Date, time and location
- Names of pupils and staff involved
- Reason for intervention
- De-escalation strategies attempted
- Description of the intervention used
- Any injuries or follow-up actions

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and senior leaders will monitor records to identify patterns, inform support plans and ensure accountability.

11. Informing Parents and Carers

Parents and carers will be informed of any significant incident involving physical intervention, in line with safeguarding procedures and professional judgement.

12. Support Following an Incident

Following an incident, the academy will:

- Support the pupil to reflect and re-regulate
 - Offer reassurance and support to staff involved
 - Review behaviour plans or risk assessments if necessary
 - Consider whether additional training or external support is required
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13. Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Headteacher and Governing Body. It will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation or guidance changes.
