

# Ark



Physical Intervention Policy

# Ark Brunel Primary Academy

## Holding Policy

This policy is based on our experience in managing difficult children and what is widely held to be a consensus of opinion and attitude already in existence at Ark Brunel Primary Academy. These guide lines are intended to conform with Section 550A of the Education Act 1996, Article 5 of the Human Rights Act 1998, the Children Act, Circular 10/98 and the 2002 Guidance on Physical intervention and will be reviewed in light of any guidelines from the DfE.

- ◆ The ethos of the Academy is that control should be based on good, positive relationships between staff and pupils.

The guidelines suggested are not intended to cover every eventuality. It is recognised that on occasion physical intervention may be necessary.

- ◆ No occasion should arise when it is acceptable for a person to act violently towards others. Staff who act professionally, and within these agreed guidelines, will be supported if a situation arises where physical intervention is necessary.
- ◆ Time and/or distance from the child might, at times, obviate the need for physical control.
- ◆ Situations can arise that cannot be diffused and where unacceptable behaviour becomes violent or dangerous. It is likely that a member of staff will become directly involved.
- ◆ Only those members of staff who have had authorised training will become directly involved in the safe handling of children.
- ◆ On occasions it may be appropriate to use physical intervention to reduce the level of violence or danger. However, it must be remembered that there may well be times when the use of physical intervention may, in the short term, increase the level of violence. Members of staff should only use physical intervention when other alternatives have been or cannot be tried, and where the following circumstances appear to exist;
  - a) Where pupils are in imminent danger of causing danger to themselves.
  - b) Where other children or staff are in imminent danger of injury.

- c) If a child is using significant danger to property and causing serious damage.
  - d) When a pupil has refused to carry out a reasonable instruction, and in so doing their presence is causing serious disruption. This could be an occasion when the child has refused to leave a room or go to an appointed place after direct instruction from a member of staff.
- ◆ Whenever possible in a), b) and c) and always in d) the child should be warned clearly that you are likely to take physical action before that action occurs.
  - ◆ It is important to remember that the security of the child, and therefore the emotional stability, depends on the certain knowledge the child that the adult is in charge of the situation.
  - ◆ A temper tantrum is naturally best dealt with by the demonstration of calm, unthreatened and unthreatening concern, and the assumption of total control by the caring adult.
  - ◆ Adult action ensuing from a loss of temper is never acceptable.
  - ◆ Whenever possible, more than one adult should be present during the use of physical intervention. It may be appropriate to observe from a distance or monitor regularly by entering the space in order to ensure the safety of both adult and child.
  - ◆ In every case the minimum strength and the shortest period of time should be used to achieve the necessary objective.
  - ◆ The pupil should be repeatedly offered the opportunity to exercise self-control and the physical intervention should stop at the earliest opportunity.
  - ◆ As soon as possible the child should be removed from general circulation. Withdrawal / isolation can be calming and may prevent stubbornness adopted by children if others are able to observe the incident.
  - ◆ It is the Academy's policy that the safest form of physical intervention is "hands off". Injury or stress (to adult or child) is best avoided by removing children to a safe area, where physical contact will cease. Children may well remain in this area alone but, closely observed / monitored by members of staff until these adults are certain the child has calmed.

- ◆ Appropriate notes will be recorded, and the incident communicated to senior management as well as to other members of staff.
- ◆ These records are kept in a central file, witnessed by relevant members of staff and signed by the Headteacher.
- ◆ **Parent / Carers:** The issues, structures and procedures surrounding the possible use of physical intervention of pupils is explained to parents / carers in the initial meeting with the Inclusion Unit teacher.

A copy of this Policy Document is available to parents on request.