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# Woodview School

## Restrictive Physical Intervention Local Procedure

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## **Restrictive Physical Intervention**

Restrictive physical intervention is a 'deliberate act to restrict a person's movement, liberty and/ or freedom to act independently' or 'using force or restricting of movement'.

According to Team Teach, restraint is 'the positive application of force to overcome rigorous resistance; completely directing, deciding and controlling a person's free movement in order to keep people safe.'

### **Positive Touch:**

Not all physical contact involves RPI.

Physical contact covers the full range of physical interventions ranging from light to firm pressure touch. It is necessary for a variety of purposes including the provision of care, comfort, communication, reassurance, and safety. For example, some children and young people benefit from deep pressure touch such as a weighted blanket, through therapeutic massage or a squeeze as outlined in a positive behaviour support plan or care plan. As these means of touch do not restrict liberties or movement, they are not deemed an RPI and therefore do not need to be recorded as such.

### **Ethos and Values:**

We aim to reduce the use of RPI wherever possible through our person-centred approach and by expanding our toolbox of positive behaviour support and communication tools.

RPI is a safeguard not a sanction and must never be used as such.

Colleagues will always use the minimum possible force utilising RPI and having exhausted all other behaviour support strategies such as de-escalation where possible.

The use of RPI will always be reasonable and proportionate of the situation and will consider Individual Positive Behaviour Support Plans, Positive Handling Plans, and related risk assessments.

### **Restrictive Physical Interventions will be used in the following circumstances:**

- To stop a student placing themselves at significant risk of harm
- To stop a student from causing harm to others (staff, students and public)
- To stop a student from causing significant/costly damage
- To guide a student away from a situation where their presence places either themselves or others at risk.

## **Expectations upon Staff:**

- Only staff who have received (and is in date) Team Teach Training can use Restrictive Physical Intervention.
- Staff will only use Team Teach as a last resort when all other means to diffuse a situation have been tried.
- Staff will record all RPI's accurately onto Engage on the day of the RPI.
- Staff will telephone parents/carers to inform them that an RPI has taken place that day and stating as to why it was necessary.
- Staff will ensure a welfare check is provided for the student post hold.
- In the unlikely event of an 'unconventional' hold and/or a student has sustained an injury as a result of the hold, staff will record this accurately and with transparency as well as informing their line manager.
- Injuries as a result of the RPI will be recorded as per the accident book procedure.

All staff should have read, understood, and operate within the Aspris Restrictive Physical Intervention policy. Staff will have received the relevant training to safely hold students and to learn of de-escalation strategies. All staff permitted to partake in RPI's will be fully trained by Team Teach qualified instructors. It is the Head of School's responsibility to ensure all staff training is up to date.

## **Reporting**

All Incidents at all sites involving the use of RPI need to be recorded on Engage. Each site should have a local contingency for recording where issues with IT occur.

Any incident where a 'front ground hold' is used also needs to be escalated using the 'Upwards Escalation reporting process. Team Teach do not permit the use of ground or front holds and therefore this would be considered an 'unconventional hold'. Guidance from Team Teach is that if a student 'goes to the ground' then staff should immediately release and re-hold if necessarily when it is safe to do so.

Schools and colleges will report on a termly basis the use of RPI via a governance report.

(You may also have a need to record in other documents locally, depending upon your geographical location and service type: This should be copied to your OD and Stephanie Rickson for central review.

Every site should have a process to review and analyse data regarding the use of RPI on a regular basis by senior leaders, this will form part of all quality and governance actions.