

Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy



Physical intervention and restrictive practices in schools and educational settings Policy

VISION

Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy are excited to thrive as a caring, interdependent community that is proud to be Welsh.

MISSION

Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy provides a holistic Welsh-medium education that is child-centred.

VALUES

Belong - We belong to the community here in Monmouth and to the wider cultural community of Wales.

Care - We care about ourselves, each other, and our environment.

Thrive - We thrive because we are ready to succeed and are responsible for our own choices.

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1. Background

In England and Wales, school staff have a power to use 'reasonable force' to prevent a pupil from: committing any offence, causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including themselves), or – prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school.

We balance this right with the rights of the learner under the European Commission for Human Rights (ECHR), and in line with Welsh Government's (WG) commitment to reducing the use of all restrictive practices where it is safe to do so.

- Staff may also use reasonable force when exercising the statutory power to search pupils for weapons, without their consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspicion.
- Staff may also segregate a pupil in an area away from other pupils if they are disruptive. This approach can be used as a planned disciplinary penalty. Schools have discretion about how long to segregate a pupil and in what circumstances, leading to a variety of practices. In England and Wales, schools must have a behaviour policy that should set out what these practices are.
- School seek to record all instances of restrictive practices to enable school to maintain a clear record of how much inclusive learning time the learner has missed and why. This also enables school and the LA to meet learner need more effectively and ensure suitable full-time inclusive education as well as compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act.
- Learners will not be isolated or secluded from all other learners or staff, against their will except in extreme or urgent situations.

Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy will maintain records of all forms of restrictive practices including the segregation and isolation of learners against their wishes, not just times when passive or active physical restraint is used. The range of restrictive practices used in schools are broken down into 10 categories as below.

Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy will monitor the use of all restrictive practices as part of the overall progress of a learner and to look at data analysis of these interventions in terms of their statutory equality duties.

Type of Restrictive Practice	Reporting/ recording that is or may be needed:
1 PHYS 1 Physical restraint (i.e. Team Teach physical interventions/ holds etc NB: Team Teach no longer endorse any form of wrap hold.)	At the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bound and numbered book Contact parent/ carer. Form R to LA H& S accident / incident or violence at work reporting <i>is</i> indicated. Risk Assessment and Positive Handling Plan is indicated to prevent future incidents. Entry onto termly spreadsheet and reporting There may be safeguarding aspects if allegations or disclosures are made.
2 PHYS 2 Physical passive restraint (i.e. guided holds interventions by staff)	At the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bound and numbered book Contact parent /carer. Form R to LA H& S accident / incident or violence at work Risk Assessment and Positive Handling Plan <i>may</i> be indicated to prevent future incidents. Entry onto termly spreadsheet and reporting. There may be safeguarding aspects if allegations or disclosures are made.
3 CHEM Chemical restraint - This will not be adopted at YG Trefynwy (i.e. Medication to restrain. Issued against learner's will -not prescribed daily routine medication.)	
4 MECH Mechanical restraint (i.e. wheelchair switch off or straps etc)	
5 SECLUDE Seclusion in isolation (can be a deprivation of liberty (DOLS) issue and unlawful if this is planned as a sanction. Only to be used in non-planned situations where there is a presenting H&S need. Forced Time out of class alone - with staff observing at intervals or at distance not peers – seclusion /isolation- not to be used as a planned measure.)	
6 ENV1 Environmental restriction (i.e. Prevented from going somewhere.)	
7 ENV2 Environmental restriction (i.e. Removal of items, including phone that is not handed in as a school wide policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry onto termly spreadsheet and reporting. Review of instances at pupil and cohort level to inform strategies and reduce future RPs and risk of exclusion and escalation etc.

<p>8 SEG1 Segregation restriction (i.e. Forced time out of class with just an adult staff member e.g., in Head's office or in class alone at break).</p>	
<p>9 SEG2 Segregation restriction (i.e. Forced segregation with others in another class, e.g., sent to another classroom).</p>	
<p>10 SEG3 Segregation restriction (i.e. Forced time in detention or segregation with other learners / peers, e.g., exclusion / detention room).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider if there are Risk Assessment needs or steps needed to reduce the risk of this re occurring and potential issue of formal exclusion etc. Consider using ABCC (antecedent behaviour communication consequence) or WINDOWS (wider picture, immediate triggers, needs, distress, opportunities, what shall we do next) analysis to address possible need for Positive Behaviour Plan or reasonable adjustments.

Restrictive practices are a broad range of measures that may occur in schools

We define physical intervention as follows:

Physical intervention is when a member of staff uses force intentionally to restrict a child's movement against his or her will. This can be active holds, passive guides or mechanical intervention.

All staff within this setting aim to help children take responsibility for their own behaviour and where possible to avoid such interventions. We do this through a combination of approaches, which include:

- Building positive relationships with all pupils
- positive role modelling
- teaching an interesting and challenging curriculum through differentiated activities.
- setting and enforcing appropriate boundaries and expectations
- providing supportive feedback.
- providing appropriate coping strategies for managing behaviour.
- Using bespoke pastoral support plans, single page profiles, Positive handling plans, Risk Assessments and use of wellbeing data and TIS and ACE aware approaches etc to ensure learner voice and a full understanding of the learners needs.
- A graduated response to learner needs via ALN continuum routes; seeking out external support and guidance where needed.

More details about this and our general approach to promoting positive behaviour can be found in our relationship and behaviour policy. There are times when children's behaviour

presents particular challenges that may require physical intervention. This policy sets out our expectations for the use of such intervention. It is not intended to refer to the general use of physical contact which might be appropriate in a range of situations, such as:

- giving physical guidance to children (for example in practical activities and P.E.)
providing emotional support when a child is distressed
- providing physical care (such as first aid or toileting).

This policy is consistent with our Safeguarding/Child Protection and Strategic Equality Plans, and with national and local guidance for schools on safeguarding children. We exercise appropriate care when using physical contact (there is further guidance in our Child Protection policy); there are some children for whom physical contact would be inappropriate (such as those with a history of physical or sexual abuse, or those from certain cultural/religious groups). We pay careful attention to issues of gender and privacy, and to any specific requirements of certain cultural/religious groups.

2. Principles for the use of physical intervention

2.1 In the context of positive approaches

We only use physical intervention when the risks involved in using force are outweighed by the risks involved in not using force. It is not our preferred way of managing children's behaviour. Physical intervention may be used only in the context of a well-established and well-implemented positive behaviour management framework with the exception of emergency situations. We describe our approach to promoting positive behaviour in our Relationship and Behaviour Policy. **We aim to do all we can in order to avoid using physical intervention.** We would only use physical intervention where we judge that there is no reasonably practicable less intrusive alternative. However, there may be rare situations of such concern where we judge that we would need to use physical intervention immediately. We would use physical intervention at the same time as using other approaches, such as saying, "Stop!" and giving a warning of what might happen next. Safety is always of paramount concern and staff are not advised to use physical intervention if it is likely to put themselves at risk. We will make parents/carers aware of our Physical Intervention policy alongside other policies when their child/young person joins our school.

2.2 Duty of care

We all have a duty of care towards the children and young people in our school. This duty of care applies as much to what we *don't* do as what we *do*. When children or young people are in danger of hurting themselves or others, or of causing significant damage to property, we have a responsibility to intervene. In most cases, this involves an attempt to divert the child to another activity or a simple instruction to "Stop!" along with a warning of what might happen next. However, if we judge that it is necessary, we may use physical intervention.

2.3 Reasonable force

When we need to use physical intervention, we use it within the principle of reasonable force. This means using an amount of force in proportion to the circumstances. We use as

little force as is necessary in order to maintain safety, and we use this for as short a period as possible.

3. When can physical intervention be used?

Only after de-escalation strategies have been used or as an emergency response to a given situation.

The use of physical intervention may be justified where a pupil is:

- a) Committing an offence (or, for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil)
- b) Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself); or
- c) Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.
- d) Where the personal safety of pupils is compromised.
- e) Physical intervention may also be appropriate where, although none of the above has yet happened, they are judged as highly likely to be about to happen. We are very cautious about using physical intervention where there are no immediate concerns about possible injury or exceptional damage to property. **Physical intervention would only be used in exceptional circumstances.** It should be done by staff that know the student well and who are able to make informed judgements about the relative risks of using, or not using, physical intervention; for example, stopping a younger child leaving the school site.

The main aim of physical intervention is usually to maintain or restore safety. We acknowledge that there may be times when physical intervention may be justified as a reasonable and proportional response to prevent damage to property or to maintain good order and discipline at the school. **However, we would be particularly careful to consider all other options available before using physical intervention to achieve either of these goals.**

In all cases, we remember that, even if the aim is to re-establish good order, physical intervention may actually escalate the difficulty. If we judge that physical intervention would make the situation worse, we would not use it, but would do something else (like go to seek help, make the area safe or warn about what might happen next and issue an instruction to stop) consistent with our duty of care.

Our duty of care means that we might use a physical intervention if a child is trying to leave our site and we judged that they would be at unacceptable risk. This duty of care also extends beyond our site boundaries: there may also be situations where we need to use physical intervention when we have control or charge of Pupil off site (e.g. on trips).

We never use physical intervention out of anger or as a punishment.

4. Who can use physical intervention?

If the use of physical intervention is appropriate, and is part of a positive behaviour management framework, a member of staff who knows the child well should be involved, and where possible, Team Teach accredited trained in the use of physical intervention. However, in an emergency, any of the following may be able to use reasonable force:

- 4.1.** any teacher who works at the school,
- 4.2.** any other person whom the head teacher has authorised to have control or charge of pupils, including:
 - a) support staff whose job normally includes supervising pupils such as teaching assistants, learning support assistants, learning mentors and lunchtime supervisors;
 - b) people to whom the head teacher has given temporary authorisation to have control or charge of pupils such as paid members of staff whose job does not normally involve supervising pupils (for example catering or premises-related staff) and unpaid volunteers (for example parents accompanying pupils on school organised visits) but not prefects.

5. Planning around an individual and risk assessment

In an emergency, staff do their best, using reasonable force within their duty of care. Where an individual child has an individual positive behaviour management plan, which includes the use of physical intervention, we ensure that such staff receive appropriate training and support in behaviour management as well as physical intervention. We consider staff and children's physical and emotional health when we make these plans and consult with the child's parents/carers. In most situations, our use of physical intervention is in the context of a prior risk assessment that considers:

- What the risks are
- Who is at risk and how
- What we can do to manage the risk (this may include the possible use of physical intervention)

We use this risk assessment to inform the individual behaviour plan that we develop to support the child. If this behaviour plan includes physical intervention it will be as just one part of a whole approach to supporting the child's behaviour. The behaviour plan outlines:

- Our understanding of what the child is trying to achieve or communicate through their behaviour
- How we adapt our environment to better meet the child's needs

- How we teach and encourage the child to use new, more appropriate behaviours
- How we reward the child when they make progress
- How we respond when the child's behaviour is challenging (responsive strategies).
- We pay particular attention to responsive strategies. We use a range of approaches (including humour, distraction, relocation, and offering choices) as direct alternatives to using physical intervention.
- We choose these responsive strategies in the light of our risk assessment.
- We draw from as many different viewpoints as possible when we anticipate that an individual child's behaviour may require some form of physical intervention. In particular, we include the child's perspective. We also involve the child's parents (or those with parental responsibility), staff from our school who work with the child, and any visiting support staff (such as Educational Psychologists, Education Support Team (EST) workers, Speech and Language Therapists, Social Workers and colleagues from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services).
- We record the outcome from these planning meetings and seek parental signature to confirm their knowledge of our planned approach. We review these plans at least annually, or more frequently if there are any concerns about the nature or frequency of the use of physical intervention or where there are any major changes to the child's circumstances.
- We recognise that there may be some children within our school who find physical contact in general particularly unwelcome as a consequence of their culture/religious group or disability. There may be others for whom such contact is troubling as a result of their personal history, in particular of abuse. We have systems to alert staff discretely to such issues so that we can plan accordingly to meet individual children's needs.

What type of physical intervention can be used?

Any use of physical intervention by our staff should be consistent with the principle of reasonable force. In all cases, staff should be guided in their choices of action by the principles in section 2 above.

Staff should not act in ways that might reasonably be expected to cause injury, for example by:

- Holding a child around the neck or collar or in any other way that might restrict the child's ability to breathe
- Slapping, punching or kicking a child
- Twisting or forcing limbs against a joint
- Tripping a child

- Holding a child by the hair or ear

Such actions would be considered inappropriate. We may, however, use withdrawal or time-out in a planned way. We define these as follows:

Withdrawal involves taking a young person away from a situation that has caused anxiety or distress, to a place where they can be observed continuously and supported until they are ready to resume their usual activities.

Time-out is where a response to a young person's inappropriate behaviour includes a specific period of time in a quiet/ safe area as part of an overall intervention plan. This should be used to seek to allow the learner time to regulate and be supported to regulate.

6. Recording and reporting

We record any use of physical intervention. We do this as soon as possible and always within 24 hours of the incident. A copy of the incident form is sent to the Children and Young People (CYP) directorate - Inclusion Service Vulnerable Learner lead (VLL) and Health and Safety (H&S) reporting may also be required. In some situations, the Lead officer for Safeguarding in Education will also need to be informed. According to the nature of the incident, we may also note it in other records, e.g. SIMS, the accident book, bound and numbered book, violent incident. H&S accident/incident reporting or child tracking sheets may also be shared with the appropriate department, where appropriate. Further, our governing body ensures that procedures are in place for recording significant incidents and then reporting these incidents as soon as possible to the pupil's parents. After using physical intervention, we ensure that the head teacher is informed as soon as possible. We also inform EACH parent (including corporate parent where applicable) by phone (or by letter or note home with the child if this is not possible) - checking and confirming they have received the information.

7. Supporting and reviewing

We recognise that it is distressing to be involved in a physical intervention, either as the child being held, the person doing the holding, or someone observing or hearing about what has happened. After a physical intervention, we give support to the child so that they can understand why it was necessary. Where we can, we record how the child felt about this. Where it is appropriate, we have the same sort of conversations with other children who observed what happened. In all cases, we will wait until the child has calmed down enough to be able to talk productively and learn from this conversation. If necessary, the child will be asked whether they have been injured so that appropriate first aid can be given. This also gives the child an opportunity to say whether they feel anything inappropriate has happened in connection with the incident.

We also support adults who were involved, either actively or as observers, by giving them the chance to talk through what has happened with the most appropriate person from the staff team. A key aim of our after-incident support is to repair any potential strain to the

relationship between the child and the people that were involved in the physical intervention.

After a physical intervention, we consider whether the individual behaviour plan needs to be reviewed so that we can reduce the risk of needing to use physical intervention again.

8. Monitoring

We monitor the use of physical intervention in our school. The Headteacher/ Lead teacher are responsible for reviewing the records on a termly basis, and more often if the need arises, so that appropriate action can be taken. The information is also used by the governing body when this policy and related policies are reviewed.

Our analysis considers equalities issues such as age, gender, disability, culture and religion issues in order to make sure that there is no potential discrimination; we also consider potential child protection issues. We look for any trends in the relative use of restrictive physical intervention and restrictive practices overall, across different staff members and across different times of day or settings. Our aims are to protect children, to avoid discrimination and to develop our ability to meet the needs of children without using physical intervention. We report this analysis back to the governing body so that appropriate further action can be taken and monitored.

9. Concerns and complaints

The use of physical intervention is distressing to all involved and can lead to concerns, allegations or complaints of inappropriate or excessive use. In particular, a child might complain about the use of physical intervention in the heat of the moment but on further reflection might better understand why it happened. In other situations, further reflection might lead the child to feel strongly that the use of physical intervention was inappropriate. This is why we are careful to ensure all children have a chance to review the incident after they have calmed down.

If a child or parent/carer has a concern about the way physical intervention has been used, our school's complaints procedure explains how to take the matter further and how long we will take to respond to these concerns.

Where there is an allegation of assault or abusive behaviour, we ensure that the headteacher is immediately informed. We would also follow our child protection procedures. In the absence of the head teacher/line manager, in relation to physical intervention, we ensure that the deputy head/deputy line manager is informed.

If the concern, complaint or allegation concerns the head/ line manager teacher, we ensure that the Chair of Governors/ Chair of management committee is informed. If parents/carers are not satisfied with the way the complaint has been handled, they have the right to take the matter further as set out in our complaints procedure. The results and procedures used in dealing with complaints are monitored by the governing body.

10. Reviewing this policy

The policy to be reviewed biannually.

Policy adopted by Governing Body May 2025.

Signed

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

Date