
Kingsbrook School

'A unique service for unique young people'

Restrictive Physical Intervention

Priory Kingsbrook School
Southburgh
Thetford
Norfolk
IP25 7TJ
United Kingdom

Tel: 01953 852303

31st August 2020
Review: 30th August 2021

Email: kingsbrookschool@priorygroup.com

Restraint and Restrictive Physical Intervention

Restraint or 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or 'using force or restricting of movement' as defined in 'Reading the Need for Restraint and Restrictive Intervention' Draft guidance from DoH and DfE February 2018.

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.'

If the intervention does not include an element of force, then it is not a restraint as stated in Ofsted Guidance 'Positive environment where children can flourish' schools March 2018

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 weight blanket, through therapeutic massage or a squeeze as outlined in a behaviour support plan, this is not an RPI.

The use of touch to calm, comfort and divert attention can be used but, outlined in The Children Act 1989 'physical contact should always be about meeting the needs of the child..... Staff should always think before making any physical contact..... Knowledge of the individual pupil is crucial....if any interaction takes place that staff consider could be open to misinterpretation, they should consider it significant incident, report it and record it as such..... Open, honest recording protects both children and staff.'

Prompts and guides also use touch to gain attention or direct movement – these do not restrict liberty or involve force.

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. This is in line with draft guidance from DoH and DfE February 2018 'Reducing the Need for Restraint and Restrictive Intervention.'

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 where possible.

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

All staff should have read, understood and operate within the policies ECS04: Positive Behaviour Management and Support and ECS05: Physical Intervention and have received training in the appropriate use of RPI.

Reporting

All Incidents at all sites involving the use of RPI need to be recorded on Datix. 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 'Escalation email' process.

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 you OD and Stephanie Rickson for central review.

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