



**DORMER
HOUSE
SCHOOL**

Physical Intervention Policy

This policy has been written in line with the Gloucestershire "Guidance on the Use of Physical Interventions" support pack, January 2005.

It is the school's expectation that physical intervention:

- Should only be used as a last resort, in clear and dire circumstances.
- Should only be used in the best interests of the child and other children.
- Should only be used if all other preventative measures have been explored.
- Should never be punitive.
- Should be reasonable, proportional and necessary.

Therefore, the school deems that there should be no planned restrictive physical interventions in the course of a normal day. Wherever possible the use of physical force should be avoided. If physical interventions occur it will be as part of an unforeseen or emergency situation. It is acknowledged however, that, at times, staff may find themselves in a situation where there is no other option than the use of 'reasonable force' to keep a young person or themselves safe.

Section 550A of the 1996 Education Act states:

'A member of staff of a school may use, in relation to any pupil at the school, such force as is reasonable in the circumstances for the purpose of preventing the pupil from doing (or continuing to do) any of the following, namely:

- a) committing an offence
- b) causing personal injury, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself), or
- c) engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs during a teaching session or otherwise'

A "member of staff" means any teacher who works at the school and any other person who, with the authority of the Headteacher has lawful charge of young people at the school.'

Restrictive physical intervention is defined as use of physical force to control a person's behaviour. If an incident of restrictive physical contact occurs it should be documented in writing and reported to the Head Teacher as soon as possible. The report should include:

- Which young person(s) were involved, including witness names
- Where and when it happened
- Reasons why reasonable force was necessary
- Context of the incident

Complaints against members of staff following an alleged use of physical intervention will be dealt with in accordance with GSCB guidelines.

This policy is monitored by the Headteacher and the Trustees and will be reviewed annually.

Signed Date: