



## Physical Intervention Policy Autumn 2018



### Rights Respecting School

*Glusburn Community Primary School* is proud to be a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Our school was the first in North Yorkshire to receive the award in 2009.

This Policy covers the following Rights in respect of UNICEF's The Convention On The Rights Of The Child:

- **Article 19 (Protection from all forms of violence):** Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, physically or mentally.
- **Article 28: (Right to education):** All children have the right to a primary education, which should be free. Discipline in schools should respect children's dignity. For children to benefit from education, schools must be run in an orderly way. Any form of school discipline should take into account the child's human dignity.
- **Article 37 (Detention and punishment):** No one is allowed to punish children in a cruel or harmful way.

### Glusburn Primary School Mission Statement.

We want our school to be a place where everybody feels welcome.

We want all our children to feel safe and happy so that they can enjoy their learning and achieve to their full potential.

We will provide a stimulating learning environment, offering a variety of exciting learning opportunities and experiences within a broad and balanced curriculum.

We aim to give children the best possible start to their education by developing their independence, curiosity, imagination and desire to learn.

We will promote our common values and value our differences within the school and the wider community.

#### **Our common values**

- Show Respect
- Practise Manners
- Being Safe
- Working together
- Being Honest, Trustworthy and Responsible citizens.

#### **Every Child Matters**

Overriding common values:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Economic well-being



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It is rare for physical intervention to be necessary in this school environment since the established discipline procedures are usually followed. However, it is important that staff understand the circumstances when such intervention may be necessary and would be considered appropriate.

It is the school's expectation that physical intervention should:

- only be used as a last resort, in clear and unusual circumstances.
- only be used in the best interests of the pupil and the others around him/her.
- only be used if all other preventative measures have been explored
- be reasonable, proportionate and necessary.

If physical intervention does occur it will be as part of an unforeseen or emergency situation. It is acknowledged that staff may find themselves in a situation where there is no other option than the use of 'reasonable force' to keep a young person and 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/herself)*

*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.*

The law has been clarified concerning the powers of teachers to use force in exceptional circumstances. **The DfEE LEA/0264/2003** provides guidance on the use of restrictive physical interventions.

If an incident of restrictive physical contact does occur it should be documented in writing and reported to the Headteacher as soon as possible. A serious incident form should be completed by the Headteacher. This document is kept confidentially in the Headteacher's office. The report should include:

- The young person(s) involved, including witness names
- The where and when it happened
- The reasons why reasonable force was necessary
- The context of the incident

The Headteacher may decide that further investigation of the occurrence is required. Any parental complaint arising from such intervention would be investigated under the normal complaints procedure.

### **Training**

Staff training is held every 3 years for all staff members and an attendance record is kept. Last training session was 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016.