



Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School

Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI)

“Brighter futures built with Ambition, Courage and Respect; filled with Love, Hope and Faith.”

The purpose of this RPI policy is to ensure every child who is a registered pupil at our school is safe and protected from harm. This means we will always work to:

- Protect children and young people at our school from maltreatment;
- Prevent impairment of our children’s and young people’s health or development;
- Ensure that children and young people at our school grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- Undertake that role so as to enable children at our school to have the best outcomes.

This policy will give clear direction to staff, volunteers, visitors and parents about expectations and our legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children at our school. This policy runs in conjunction with our Safeguarding Policy.

Our school fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children from harm and to support and promote the welfare of all children who are registered pupils at our school.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Fran Nickson (Headteacher)

Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

Louise Leeming, Roxanne Bleasdale, Mandy Gaitens, Helen Tugwell, David Smith, Katy Copping, Caroline Bloor

Head Teacher: Fran Nickson

Chair of Governors: Tony Andrews and Gillian Ferris

Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) Policy

1. Policy statement

Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School is committed to safeguarding the welfare, dignity and rights of all pupils. We recognise that **physical intervention may be required on rare occasions** to prevent injury, serious disruption or damage to property, and that staff have a **legal duty of care** to keep pupils and others safe.

This policy sets out:

- when and how **reasonable force** may be used
- the safeguards in place for pupils and staff
- recording, reporting and follow-up procedures

This policy operates alongside the **Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and SEND policy.**

2. Legal framework

This policy is informed by and complies with the following legislation and guidance:

- **Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Section 93)**
 - **Education Act 2002 (Section 175)**
 - **Children Act 1989 & 2004**
 - **Human Rights Act 1998**
 - **Equality Act 2010**
 - **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025**
 - **DfE: Use of Reasonable Force – Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies**
 - **Behaviour in Schools – Advice for headteachers and school staff (DfE, 2022)**
 - **SEND Code of Practice (2015)**
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3. Definitions

- **Reasonable force / physical intervention:**
The proportionate use of physical contact to prevent immediate harm, serious disruption or damage.
- **Restrictive physical intervention:**
A physical intervention that restricts a pupil's movement. This is used **only as a last resort.**

Reasonable force **is never used as a punishment.**

4. Core principles

Physical intervention at Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School is guided by the following principles:

- **Safety first:** Protection of pupils, staff and others is paramount
 - **Last resort:** De-escalation is always attempted before force
 - **Proportionate:** Minimum force for the shortest time necessary
 - **Dignity and respect:** Pupils are treated calmly and compassionately
 - **Safeguarding-led:** Every incident is considered through a safeguarding lens
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5. Prevention and de-escalation

We aim to **reduce the need for physical intervention** through:

- Trauma-informed and restorative practice
 - Clear routines and consistent expectations
 - Reasonable adjustments for pupils with SEND or SEMH needs
 - Individual **Behaviour / Positive Handling Plans** and risk assessments
 - Use of calm spaces, regulation strategies, and key adults
 - Skilled verbal de-escalation and distraction
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6. When reasonable force may be used

Staff may use reasonable force **only where necessary**, including:

- To prevent a pupil from injuring themselves or others
- To prevent serious damage to property
- To prevent serious disruption that poses a safety risk
- To stop a criminal offence from occurring

All decisions are made **in the moment**, based on professional judgement.

7. Staff authorisation and training

- All school staff have the **legal power** to use reasonable force.
- Only **trained staff** use planned restrictive interventions.
- All staff receive regular training in:
 - de-escalation
 - positive handling
 - safeguarding and SEND considerations

Untrained staff may intervene **only in an emergency** to prevent immediate harm.

8. Individual planning and risk assessment

Pupils who may be at risk of requiring physical intervention will have:

- A **Positive Handling / Behaviour Support Plan (BSP)**
- A **risk assessment**
- Adjustments agreed with parents/carers and relevant professionals

Plans are:

- reviewed regularly
 - shared with relevant staff
 - centred on prevention and support
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9. Use of calm / withdrawal spaces

The school provides **safe, supportive spaces** (e.g. Heart Room / Peace Room) to support emotional regulation.

- These spaces are **not seclusion**.
- Doors are **never locked**.
- Pupils are continuously **monitored and supported**.
- Pupils leave as soon as they are calm and safe to do so.

If physical guidance is required to move a pupil to safety, this is treated as a **restrictive intervention** and recorded accordingly.

10. Recording and reporting

Whenever reasonable force or a restrictive intervention is used:

- A detailed record is completed on **CPOMS** within 24 hours
- Records include:
 - reason for intervention
 - techniques used
 - duration
 - pupil response
 - injuries (if any)

- follow-up actions

Parents/carers are **informed as soon as practicable**.

All incidents are reviewed by senior leaders, and patterns are monitored.

11. Post-incident support and debrief

After an incident:

- Pupils receive emotional support and a **restorative conversation**
 - Staff involved are supported and debriefed
 - Risk assessments and plans are reviewed and updated
 - External agencies may be consulted where appropriate
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12. Equality, SEND and vulnerability

In line with the **Equality Act 2010** and **SEND Code of Practice**, the school:

- Makes reasonable adjustments for pupils with SEND
 - Avoids sanctions or interventions that unfairly disadvantage pupils with disabilities
 - Recognises the heightened vulnerability of pupils with SEND and SEMH
 - Ensures force is never used to compensate for lack of support
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13. Complaints and allegations

Any complaint regarding the use of reasonable force is:

- Investigated thoroughly and promptly
- Managed in line with safeguarding and HR procedures
- Considered fairly and without automatic suspension of staff

The school has a duty of care to **both pupils and staff**.

14. Governance and monitoring

- The Headteacher oversees implementation
- Governors receive anonymised termly reports on incidents

- Trends and disproportionate impact are monitored
- This policy is reviewed **annually**