



Co-headteachers: Kerrie L Clowes MA BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH/ Emma E Doyle BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

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Physical Intervention & Positive Handling Policy

June 2026

Review date: June 2027





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Vision statement

“Gain a heart of Wisdom.” Psalm 90 v 12

Our pledge is for every member of our school family to **Amaze** with their knowledge (know more and remember more), zest for learning and kindness to themselves and others; to **Achieve** their individual full potential in a happy, caring and fully inclusive family environment based on the core values of Christianity; to **Aspire** to reach great heights as they take flight on their own journey of endless possibilities.

1. Policy Statement

Harworth Church of England Academy is committed to creating a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment where behaviour is understood as communication and supported through positive relationships. Physical intervention is only ever used as a last resort to keep individuals safe. This policy reflects our Christian vision: 'Gain a heart of wisdom'.

2. Key Principles

- Behaviour is communication and reflects unmet needs.
- Relationships are central to behaviour support.
- De-escalation and prevention are always prioritised.
- Physical intervention is a last resort.
- Any intervention must be reasonable, proportionate and in the child's best interests.

3. Legal Framework

This policy is based on the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Keeping Children Safe in Education and DfE guidance on restrictive interventions (2026).

4. Definitions

Positive Handling refers to the range of strategies used to manage behaviour safely, including communication, de-escalation and, where necessary, physical intervention.

Restrictive Physical Intervention includes any action that restricts movement or controls behaviour using force.



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5. Prevention and De-escalation

Staff will use proactive strategies such as calm communication, emotion coaching, giving time and space, offering choices and reducing triggers.

6. When Physical Intervention May Be Used

Physical intervention may be used only to prevent injury, serious damage to property or serious disorder. It must be the least restrictive option and used for the shortest time necessary.

7. Prohibited Practices

The school does not permit any techniques that cause pain, restrict breathing, or humiliate the child. Force must never be used as punishment.

8. Staff Training

Staff receive training through Nottinghamshire's Understanding Behaviour programme and positive handling training where required. Training focuses on prevention, de-escalation and safe interventions.

9. Planning and Risk Assessment

Where required, individual Positive Handling Plans are developed outlining triggers, strategies and agreed interventions.

10. Recording and Reporting

All incidents involving physical intervention are recorded promptly, including details of the intervention and outcomes. Parents are informed.

11. Safeguarding

All incidents are treated as safeguarding matters and reviewed appropriately.

12. Monitoring and Review

The school monitors incidents to reduce the need for restraint and improve outcomes for pupils.