

## **Maple Medical PRU**

### **Physical Intervention Policy**

#### **Objectives**

The key objective of this policy is to maintain the safety of the pupils and staff. In doing so we abide by the objectives laid down in the Education Act as outlined below.

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do any of the following:

- a] Committing any offence [or for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil];
- b] Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person [including the pupil him/herself]: or
- c] Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

#### **Minimising the need to use force**

At Maple Medical PRU we aim to provide a calm environment, which enables staff to teach and pupils to learn. This enables us to minimise the risk of incidents that might require the use of force. As a PRU, our pupils all have medical needs or a diagnosis of ASD. The majority of staff are team teach trained although incidents at Maple where force may need to be used is very rare.

At Maple, we will only use physical intervention when the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved in not doing so. These risks would result in injury to the pupil, another pupil or to staff or result in serious criminal damage.

#### **Staff authorised to carry out physical intervention**

All permanent members of the teaching and non-teaching staff are fully trained in Team Teach and have received accreditation. Team Teach is a BILD accredited framework for deescalating behaviour and also trains staff in the use of safe physical restraint techniques. A list of accredited staff is in Appendix A with the dates of training and date when re-accreditation and training is due. Therefore, the head teacher has authorised all trained staff to have the statutory power to use force where the incident is covered under the objectives listed above.

Staff who are not trained in Team Teach or temporary staff on short-term contracts are not authorised to use physical intervention.

## **Deciding whether to physically intervene**

As already stated incidents are very rare. In line with Team Teach guidance all staff are clear that physical intervention is only used when:

- the potential consequences of not intervening were sufficiently serious to justify considering the use of force e.g. another pupil could be seriously injured;
- the chances of achieving the desired result by other means were by this stage very low;
- the risks associated with not intervening outweighed those of intervening.

All staff will be kept informed about and advised on how to deal with pupils who present particular risks to themselves and others through the sharing of information and staff briefings. In the case of pregnant girls or physically unwell children, medical advice will be followed.

If a situation arises involving a pupil who is suspected of or is carrying a weapon and they are likely to resist being searched or handing over the weapon willingly, then staff will call the police.

## **Physical Intervention**

As stated, all staff who carry out a physical intervention on a pupil are authorised to do this by the head teacher and that this will only occur when at least one of the criteria listed below occurs: -

1. Committing any offence [or for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil];
2. Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person [including the pupil himself]: or
3. Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

In addition, staff will always ensure that the following are in place wherever it is possible to do so: -

- Pupils are given a clear oral warning prior to a physical intervention taking place. This will allow the pupil to consider whether they could work with staff to calm the situation without an intervention having to take place. It also ensures that the pupil is fully aware that staff are preparing for physical intervention and are therefore not able to say they were assaulted by staff [as long as the intervention used the recognised techniques]
- The holds used by the staff will be the recognised holds for which the staff have received training. There will be no form of hold that is likely to cause injury to a pupil [particularly anything that could restrict breathing].
- Staff are advised that, as far as possible, they should not use a physical intervention unless, or until another trained adult is present to support, observe or call for assistance.

## **Staff Training**

All staff receive Team Teach training [www.team-teach.co.uk]. They attend a 6 hour [1-day course]. Some staff attend a 2-day course if it is more likely to need to use the techniques within Maple. Staff attend a refresher course every 3 years. The training is provided by Team Teach accredited trainers.

The skills and techniques taught on a Team-Teach course are as a result of an on going risk assessment in an effort to safeguard everyone involved in a violent incident where physical interventions are necessary.

Team-Teach techniques seek to avoid injury to a pupil, but whilst some physical injury potential can be reduced there remains some risk, with potential for possible bruising or scratching that may occur accidentally, and these are not to be seen necessarily as a failure of professional technique, but a regrettable and infrequent side effect of ensuring that the pupil remains safe.

It is also recognised that staff may choose to respond with a technique from outside the Team Teach framework. This does not automatically render the use of such skill or technique necessarily improper, unacceptable or unlawful. Its use must be judged on whether or not it was reasonable, proportionate and necessary in those particular contexts and circumstances.

## **Recording incidents**

All serious incidents, which result in a physical intervention taking place, will be recorded on an incident form [see appendix B] by the staff involved. This is then passed to a member of the senior management team who completes the Serious Incident Book [this is a bound and page numbered book] and investigates the incident thoroughly. This information is then recorded on the incident form. The book is held at Maple, Cedar Road.

## **Reporting incidents**

Following a physical intervention taking place, the parents/carers of the pupil involved will be informed by either telephone or by letter, Once this action has taken place it is recorded on the incident form.

## **Post-Incident support**

It is essential that following a physical intervention that both the pupil and member[s] of staff involved are provided with support. Immediately after the incident, both parties will be given time to calm down, as it is not possible to debrief effectively until adrenalin levels subside.

The incident will be discussed and the opportunity to review how this could [if possible] have been handled differently will be considered. This will enable staff to develop their skills and knowledge and enable work to be carried out with the pupil about developing strategies that will support them in finding more appropriate ways of managing their behaviour.

A further meeting will be facilitated if necessary between the member[s] of staff and the pupil to enable them to rebuild relationships.

**Complaints and Allegations**

Maple has a complaints procedure in place. Should a complaint arise following an intervention this will be activated and the procedures followed.

However, if concerns arise when the investigation of the incident is taking place regarding misconduct by a member of staff, then the child protection policy and procedures may require to be followed. The Head Teacher in consultation with the senior leaders will make this decision. Alternatively, depending on the nature of the alleged misconduct, the decision may be to follow the disciplinary policy and procedures.

**Monitoring and Review**

The policy and procedures will be reviewed formally on a 2 yearly basis. However, should amendments be published then the policy will be updated accordingly.

This policy follows the non-statutory guidance published by the DCSF entitled 'The use of force to control or restrain pupils [Circular 11/07]. This guidance replaced and superseded Circular 10/98.

**Date of Policy**            June 2020

**Date of Review**        June 2022

**Signed**

**Head teacher.....**

**Chair Management Committee.....**

**Appendix A** The following staff have participated in Team Teach Training and are authorised to carry out physical intervention

| <b>Staff Member</b>       | <b>Course Level</b> | <b>Date passed</b> | <b>Next training due</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Kath Formby</b>        | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Jane Ward</b>          | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Lynne Elliott</b>      | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Sharon Heath</b>       | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Dawn Potter</b>        | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Lisa Waddoups</b>      | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Jackie Casey</b>       | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Lorraine Price</b>     | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Lisa Johnson</b>       | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Cathryn Richardson</b> | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Daniel Shires</b>      | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Marie Walker</b>       | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Carl Ryde</b>          | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Tina Metcalfe</b>      | <b>2 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Lynn Ostcliffe</b>     | <b>2 day</b>        | <b>Feb 2020</b>    | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Lois Gore</b>          | <b>2 day</b>        | <b>May 2017</b>    | <b>May 2020</b>          |
| <b>Cat Hand</b>           | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Barbara Sharp</b>      | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Louise Garner</b>      | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Kris Hadfield</b>      | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Ashlea Hood</b>        | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Carole Robertson</b>   | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Jennie Watson</b>      | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Jackie Holdsworth</b>  | <b>1 day</b>        | <b>12/02/2020</b>  | <b>Feb 2023</b>          |
| <b>Gemma Derbyshire</b>   | <b>2 days</b>       | <b>Jan 2020</b>    | <b>Jan 2023</b>          |

Appendix B

**Record of physical intervention**

**Please refer to the Behaviour Policy and Physical Intervention Policy.**

Name of pupil: ..... JASP/ YPC/ LINK/Mulberry

Date of incident:..... SIB ref. number: .....

Location:.....

Staff involved in physical intervention:.....

Other staff involved as witnesses...

.....  
.....

Start time ..... End time: .....

What led to the incident/triggered the behaviour?

State actual behaviour observed, e.g. hitting rather than aggressive.

*What techniques were used to defuse/de-escalate the situation?*

Space given  
ignoring

Distraction

Planned

Humour  
offered

Reassurance

Time out

Other (please state):

Was the pupil's Personal Handling Plan followed?

- No plan was in place
- Yes, and was adequate to manage the incident
- Yes, but additional measures were needed and/or behaviour had not been experienced before and the Personal Handling Plan will need reviewing as a result of the incident.

**Reason why reasonable force was thought necessary** *(please tick only 1):*

- The pupil was at immediate risk of injury [Injury to self]
- The pupil was placing other pupils at risk of injury
- The pupil was placing staff or others present at risk of injury
- Property was being or about to be damaged
- Good order was prejudiced [serious disruption] – how ?  
.....
- Other – please explain .....

*Description of physical interventions used*

**TT = Team Teach – please tick all that apply**

| <b>Technique used</b>                    | <b>Time applied for:</b> | <b>Type of support</b>   | <b>Location: (If changed)</b> |
|--|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TT single elbow |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Supported whilst standing/walking                       |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TT figure 4     |                          |  |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TT double elbow |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical support released when child 'dropped' to floor |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TT T-wrap       |                          |  |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TT head support |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Supported sitting on 3 chairs                           |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TT shield       |                          |  |                               |
| Breathing monitored by:                  |                          |  |                               |

*Post incident support*

How was the pupil calmed after the incident?

- Quiet time allowed
- Praised for appropriate/on task behaviour
- Other- please state:
- Incident discussed with pupil at level appropriate to their understanding

By whom:

.....

Pupil's views recorded: *(Include questions such as how could we have prevented this escalation? Would they like some support?)*

*Injuries – please tick all that apply and add ACRAS number to brackets [ ]*

- Staff injured [ ] ACRAS completed
- Pupil involved in incident injured [ ] ACRAS completed [ ] body map completed
- Other pupils injured [ ] ACRAS completed
- Other people injured [ ] ACRAS completed

***Record any damage to property.***

**Action taken by staff and outcomes:**

- Parents advised                      If 'Yes' please give time:              By whom:
- Carers advised                        If 'Yes' please give time:              By whom:
- Pupil sent home                        If 'Yes' please give time:              By whom:
- Pupil chose to leave site              If 'Yes' please give time:

**Signed:** .....                      **Time:** .....  
.....**Date:**.....

**Witness**

**Signature(s):**.....

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**ACTION TAKEN BY HEAD TEACHER/ DEPUTY HEAD**

**Name:** .....

**Position**.....

- Serious Incident Book completed
- SIB signed by Head teacher/ Deputy Head
- Head teacher /Deputy Head initialled actions taken/to be taken
- Report reviewed with staff and support/guidance provided:

By Whom.....

*(Summarise: Include the question - What could have been done differently?)*

- Parents informed:
- By whom: .....
  - o Telephoned
  - o Letter
  - o Invited into school
  - o Other – please state:

Other professionals informed: (If 'YES' complete box below)

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Designation</i>                          | <i>Date informed and how</i> |
|-------------|---|------------------------------|
|             | Social Worker<br>(must be informed for CLA) |                              |
|             | Police                                      |                              |
|             | Local Education Authority                   |                              |

Personal Handling reviewed and updated [if appropriate]

**Signed:** ..... **Time:** ..... **Date:** .....