

LEGACY EDUCATION Physical Intervention & Positive Handling Policy



"Character Above All Else"

Approved by: Director

Responsible Person: Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Last Review Date: December 2025

Next Review Due: December 2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Legacy Alternative Provision (Legacy AP) is committed to creating a safe and supportive environment where students and staff feel secure.
 - 1.2. Our ethos of “*Character Above All Else*” promotes self-discipline, respect, and responsibility.
 - 1.3. While we prioritise de-escalation and restorative practice, there may be rare occasions when **physical intervention** is necessary to prevent harm or maintain safety.
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2. Purpose and Scope

- 2.1. This policy sets out how physical intervention may be used safely and appropriately.
 - 2.2. It applies to all staff, volunteers, and contractors who work directly with students at Legacy AP, including during off-site activities and physical training sessions.
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3. Legal Framework

- 3.1. This policy is informed by:
 - *Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Section 93)*
 - *Use of Reasonable Force – DfE Guidance (2013)*
 - *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)*
 - *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*
 - *Human Rights Act 1998*
 - 3.2. Staff must always act within the law, using **reasonable, proportionate, and necessary** force only when absolutely required.
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4. Key Principles

- 4.1. Physical intervention is always a **last resort**.
 - 4.2. De-escalation and restorative strategies must be prioritised.
 - 4.3. Any intervention must be **in the best interests of the student**.
 - 4.4. Staff will use the **minimum force necessary** for the shortest possible time.
 - 4.5. Every incident will be recorded and reviewed by the DSL.
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5. When Physical Intervention May Be Used

- 5.1. Physical intervention may be used to:
 - Prevent a student from injuring themselves or others
 - Prevent serious damage to property
 - Prevent behaviour that seriously disrupts learning or safety
 - Remove a student from danger
 - Maintain order where safety is at risk
 - 5.2. When training or coaching physical activity, **any physical contact must only meet the needs of the student.**
 - 5.3. Contact must always be explained, proportionate, and appropriate to the context.
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6. Types of Acceptable Intervention

- 6.1. Acceptable interventions include:
 - Gentle guiding by the arm or shoulder
 - Blocking a student's path to prevent injury
 - Physically interposing between students
 - Leading a student away from danger
 - 6.2. Unacceptable interventions include:
 - Any hold that restricts breathing or circulation
 - Slapping, punching, kicking, or tripping
 - Forcing compliance through pain or discomfort
 - Holding for extended periods or as punishment
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7. Reporting and Recording Incidents

- 7.1. All incidents involving physical intervention must be:
 - Reported to the **DSL** immediately
 - Recorded using the **Incident Report Form** within 24 hours
 - Reviewed by the Director within 48 hours
 - 7.2. Parents or carers must be informed on the same day wherever possible.
 - 7.3. Patterns or repeat incidents will trigger a review of strategies and student support plans.
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8. Support and Debrief

- 8.1. After any incident, both staff and students will be offered a debrief to reflect and restore relationships.
 - 8.2. This process reinforces learning, accountability, and emotional regulation.
 - 8.3. Restorative conversations are central to rebuilding trust and reducing future risk.
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9. Staff Training

- 9.1. Only staff who have completed approved **positive handling training** may use restrictive techniques.
 - 9.2. Training includes:
 - De-escalation and conflict management
 - Safe and appropriate physical intervention
 - Recording and reporting procedures
 - 9.3. Training is refreshed regularly and logged by the DSL.
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10. Monitoring and Review

- 10.1. The DSL and Director monitor all recorded incidents to ensure proportionality and compliance.
 - 10.2. Lessons learned from incidents are used to improve practice, training, and risk management.
 - 10.3. This policy is reviewed annually or sooner if guidance changes.
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11. Related Policies

- 11.1. This policy should be read alongside:
 - Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
 - Behaviour & Exclusions Policy
 - Health & Safety Policy
 - Staff Code of Conduct
 - Risk Assessment Procedures