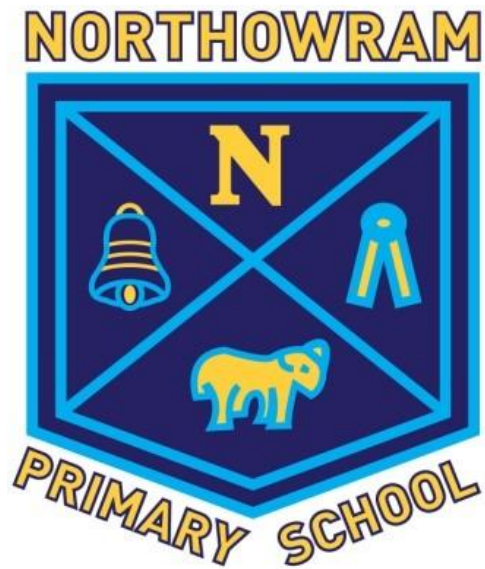


# Northowram Primary School

## Physical Contact and Restrictive Interventions Policy



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<b>Name of Policy Writer</b>	<b>NPS</b>
<b>Last Reviewed</b>	<b>New policy to link to DFE guidance (April 2026)</b>
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**Contents**

**Page**

1. Purpose ..... 3

2. Legal Framework ..... 3

3. Scope..... 3

4. Principles ..... 3

5. Definitions ..... 3

6. Acceptable Physical Contact..... 3

7. Use of Restrictive Interventions ..... 4

8. Preventative Approach ..... 4

9. Determining Appropriateness ..... 4

10. Seclusion ..... 4

11. Use of reasonable force to search pupils..... 5

11. Staff Training and Support ..... 5

12. Communication ..... 5

13. Monitoring and Review ..... 5

14. Linked Policies ..... 5

## 1. Purpose

This policy sets out how Northowram Primary School manage physical contact and the use of restrictive interventions, including reasonable force and seclusion. It ensures that all actions are lawful, proportionate, and prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of pupils and staff.

## 2. Legal Framework

This policy is based on statutory and non-statutory guidance and reflects duties under:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Schools (Recording and Reporting of Seclusion and Restraint) Regulations 2025

This policy is closely informed by DfE Guidance (April 2026)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6943dad6501cdd438f4cf5aa/Restrictive\\_interventions\\_including\\_use\\_of\\_reasonable\\_force\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6943dad6501cdd438f4cf5aa/Restrictive_interventions_including_use_of_reasonable_force_in_schools.pdf)

## 3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All staff working in Northowram Primary School
- All pupils
- All situations where physical contact, seclusion or restrictive intervention may be used

## 4. Principles

Northowram Primary School is committed to:

- Minimising the need for restrictive interventions
- Using prevention and de-escalation strategies first
- Ensuring any intervention is necessary, reasonable, and proportionate
- Maintaining pupil dignity and respect at all times
- Ensuring transparency with parents and carers

## 5. Definitions

- **Physical contact:** Any intentional touching of a pupil by a member of staff
- **Reasonable force:** The minimum force necessary to prevent harm, disorder, or damage
- **Restrictive intervention:** Any action that restricts a pupil's movement
- **Seclusion:** Preventing a pupil from leaving a space for safety reasons (not as punishment)

## 6. Acceptable Physical Contact

Staff may use appropriate physical contact in the following situations:

- To provide first aid
- To provide intimate care
- To comfort or reassure a pupil
- To show encouragement (e.g. a pat on the back/handshake)
- To guide or escort pupils
- To support learning activities (e.g. PE, music)
- To manage behaviour in a non-restrictive way

Staff must always consider:

- Age and understanding of the pupil
- Individual needs (including SEND)
- Context and environment

- Safeguarding policies

Northowram Primary School does not operate a “no contact” policy and can not agree with any stakeholders to a wholly non-contact approach with any individual pupil.

## **7. Use of Restrictive Interventions**

All staff may use reasonable force or restrictive intervention to prevent a pupil from:

- Injuring themselves or others
- Committing a criminal offence
- Causing significant damage to property
- Seriously disrupting good order

## **8. Preventative Approach**

Whole-School Measures are in place to reduce the likelihood of needing to use seclusion or restrictive interventions for pupils. These include:

- Positive behaviour management strategies
- Behaviour policy which provides clarity about strategies for recognition and sanction
- Supportive classroom environments
- additional, suitable break-out safe spaces for pupils to access if they are experiencing dysregulation including pastoral spaces and sensory room
- Full-time out of class pastoral leader role
- Behaviour Champion leadership role (post-holder holds NPQ Leading Behaviour and Culture)
- Regular staff training in behaviour management including de-escalation strategies
- Staff training in SEND
- Strong staff–pupil relationships
- Regular Monitoring of behaviour data

Individual Support:

- Working with parents and carers
- Behaviour support plans
- Risk Assessments
- Identification of triggers
- Providing time and space to self-regulate
- Reasonable adjustments for SEND pupils

## **9. Determining Appropriateness**

When determining the appropriateness of any restrictive intervention or use of seclusion, staff must always consider:

- Necessity: Are there less restrictive options?
- Proportionality: Use least force for shortest time
- Welfare: Consider wellbeing, dignity, SEND and communication

## **10. Seclusion**

Seclusion is an intervention involving keeping a pupil confined to a place away from others and prevented from leaving and will only be used as a safety measure to protect others from harm when a pupil is experiencing high levels of emotional or behavioural dysregulation. Northowram Primary school will ensure that the place to which the pupil is confined is safe and not threatening or intimidating to the pupil. Pupils will be supervised at all times during any period of seclusion. As soon as the immediate risk of harm has reduced, the pupil will be allowed to leave. All incidents requiring seclusion will be logged by the school on the internal CPOMS system and reported to parents and carers.

## **11. Use of reasonable force to search pupils**

The Head teacher (and staff they authorise) has a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil may have a prohibited item. A member of staff can use such force as is reasonable to search for legally prohibited items, but not to search for items banned under the school rules only.

## **11. Staff Training and Support**

- Staff receive training in behaviour, SEND and de-escalation
- Risk assessments are carried out where needed
- Staff supported after incidents
- Staff most likely to be required to use restrictive interventions receive more specialist training

## **12. Communication**

This policy will be shared with staff, parents and carers and displayed on Northowram Primary School website. Parents and Carers will always be informed if seclusion or restrictive intervention has been required.

## **13. Monitoring and Review**

Incidents will be reviewed regularly to improve practice. All incidents where seclusion or restrictive intervention have been required will be logged on Northowram Primary School's internal CPOMS system.

## **14. Linked Policies**

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Intimate Care Policy

Approved by: Northowram Primary School Governing Body

Date: April 2026

Next Review: April 2028