



Manby Lodge Infant School Touch and Restrictive Interventions Policy

Date of last review: Spring 2026

Date of next review: Spring 2027

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Introduction

Manby Lodge Infant School is committed to ensuring the safety, dignity and wellbeing of all pupils and staff. This policy sets out the school's approach to touch and the use of restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, and reflects Surrey County Council model principles and the [Department for Education guidance "Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools" \(effective from 1 April 2026\)](#).

This policy should be read alongside the school's Relationships and Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Policy, SEND Policy, Intimate Care Policy and Health and Safety policy.

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- protect the rights, dignity and wellbeing of pupils
- support staff in exercising their professional judgement lawfully and confidently
- reduce the need for restrictive interventions through prevention and de-escalation
- ensure that any use of restrictive intervention is safe, proportionate and properly recorded

Definitions

Restrictive intervention:

Any act carried out by staff that restricts a child's liberty, movement or freedom to act independently. This includes physical and non-physical interventions.

Restrictive physical intervention:

Any direct physical contact where staff intentionally restrict a child's movement or mobility to prevent harm.

Reasonable force:

Force that is proportionate and reasonable in the circumstances, used to prevent a pupil from causing harm to themselves or others, damaging property, or committing a serious breach of school discipline.

Seclusion:

The supervised confinement of a pupil in a room or space from which they are prevented from leaving. Manby Lodge Infant School does not use seclusion as a behaviour management strategy.

Principles Underpinning the Use of Restrictive Interventions

Manby Lodge Infant School adopts the following principles, consistent with the DFEs guidance:

- restrictive interventions are used only as a last resort
- the least restrictive option is always chosen
- interventions are used to prevent harm, not to punish
- the safety and dignity of the pupil and staff are paramount
- every incident is recorded, reviewed and learned from

Touch in School

Positive and appropriate touch is an essential part of working with young children and may be used for care, comfort, safety and educational purposes. Any physical contact must:

- be appropriate to the child's age, understanding and individual needs
- be public and open to scrutiny
- never be used to punish or cause pain

Physical contact will not involve the neck, joints or sensitive body areas and will never constitute corporal punishment.

Prevention and De-escalation

The school seeks to minimise the need for restrictive interventions by:

- creating calm, predictable and supportive environments
- Using a calm facial expression and warm, open body language
- Using a warm, calm tone of voice with the pupil
- Calmly reminding the pupil about our rules and expectations
- building positive relationships
- teaching emotional regulation and conflict management skills
- using distraction, redirection and de-escalation strategies
- Avoiding having too many members of staff present when trying to de-escalate the situation.

When Restrictive Interventions May Be Used

Restrictive interventions, including reasonable force, may be used only where necessary to:

- prevent a pupil from causing harm to themselves or others
- prevent serious damage to property
- prevent a serious breach of school discipline

Any intervention must be lawful, necessary, reasonable and proportionate.

Planned and Unplanned Interventions**Planned restrictive interventions**

Planned interventions may be used only as part of an agreed, risk-assessed behaviour support or handling plan, developed in consultation with parents/carers and relevant professionals.

Unplanned or emergency interventions

Unplanned interventions may be used only in exceptional circumstances where immediate action is required to prevent serious harm.

Who May Use Restrictive Interventions

All school staff have a statutory power to use reasonable force where necessary. Restrictive physical interventions beyond passive contact should normally be carried out only by staff who have received appropriate Positive Touch training, except in emergency situations.

Acceptable Forms of Intervention

Staff may use:

- passive physical presence or blocking
- guiding or leading by the hand or arm
- ushering a pupil away using a hand placed centrally on the back
- trained restrictive physical interventions where necessary

No intervention will be used that could restrict breathing, apply pressure to the neck or joints, or cause pain.

SEND, Equality and Safeguarding

Manby Lodge Infant School recognises its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the SEND Code of Practice. Restrictive interventions will take account of pupils' SEND, disabilities, medical needs, communication differences and vulnerabilities. Reasonable adjustments will be considered and applied where appropriate.

Recording, Reporting and Review

Schools have a legal duty to record and support all significant incidents in which a member of staff uses force on a pupil or incidents where a member of staff uses seclusion or restraint on a pupil.

Incidents must be recorded as soon as possible after the event. Ideally, this should be on the same day.

Staff will record the following details:

- The names of the pupil(s) and staff involved
- Any relevant needs or circumstances of the pupil, including if the pupil has SEND and their SEN code
- The time, date, location and approximate duration of the intervention
- A brief account of the incident, including what led up to it, any known triggers that were or may have been involved, and any preventative or de-escalation strategies used
- The type of reasonable force and the degree of force that was used
- A brief account of why the staff member(s) assessed that it was necessary to use force
- Details of any physical injuries
- Any support provided after the incident, including any medical treatment for injuries

The written report should be provided to parents, ideally on the same day as the incident. Staff should **not** include identifying details of any other pupil, as this is likely to be a breach of data protection law.

All Incidents involving restrictive interventions **must** be recorded on CPOMS using the Positive Touch form. Once logged in select:

Categories: Behaviour

Sub-categories: Positive Touch

Senior leaders will review records regularly to identify patterns, any safeguarding concerns and opportunities to reduce future use.

Post-Incident Support

Following any incident involving restrictive intervention:

- first aid and emotional support will be provided if necessary
- staff and pupils will be supported and debriefed
- incidents will be reviewed to inform future practice

Governance and Oversight

The Governing Body will receive anonymised reports on the use of restrictive interventions as part of its safeguarding oversight responsibilities and will monitor compliance, trends and training effectiveness.

Training and Authorisation

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that:

- staff receive appropriate training and updates
- planned interventions are authorised and risk assessed
- training records are maintained

Complaints

Any concerns regarding the use of restrictive interventions should be raised through the school's complaints procedure.

Appendix A - Written report for use of POSTIVE TOUCH:

Date: **Time:**

Child involved: **Year Group** **Class**

Staff involved:

SEN (please circle): EHCP SEN Support No SEN

A brief account of the incident, including what led up to it, any known triggers that were or may have been involved, and any preventative or de-escalation strategies used.

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The type of reasonable force and the degree of force that was used:

E.g. held onto elbows / restrained by wrapping arms around child, while seated on the floor

Why staff member(s) assessed that it was necessary to use force? (please circle):

- To prevent child from hurting other children
- To prevent child from hurting or endangering themselves
- To prevent child from hurting adults

Details of any physical injuries to anyone involved:

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Any support provided after the incident, including any medical treatment for injuries

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