**Extract from Behaviour Policy:**

***Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI)***

***What is RPI?:*** *the term is used to describe interventions where the use of force to control a person’s behaviour is employed using bodily contact. It refers to any instance in which a teacher or other adult authorised by the Headteacher has to use “reasonable force” to control or restrain pupils in circumstances that meet the defined criteria set out below.*

***Principles relating to RPI:***

* *RPI is an act of care and control, not punishment. It is never used to force compliance with staff instructions*
* *RPI will only be used in circumstances when one or more of the legal criteria for its use are met*
* *Staff will only use it when there are good grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary and that it is in the pupil’s and/or other pupils’ best interests for staff to intervene physically.*
* *Staff will take steps in advance to avoid the need for RPI through dialogue and diversion. The pupil will be warned, at their level of understanding, that RPI will be used unless they cease the unacceptable behaviour*
* *Staff will use the minimum force necessary to ensure safe outcomes*
* *Staff will be able to show that the intervention used was a reasonable response to the incident*
* *Every effort will be made to secure the presence of other staff, and these staff may act as assistants and/or witnesses*
* *As soon as it is safe, the RPI will be relaxed to allow the pupil to regain self-control*
* *A distinction will be maintained between the use of a one-off intervention which is appropriate to a particular circumstance, and the using of it repeatedly as a regular feature of school policy*
* *Escalation will be avoided at all costs, especially if it would make the overall situation more destructive and unmanageable*
* *The age, understanding, and competence of the individual pupil will always be taken into account*
* *In developing Individual Education/Behaviour Plans, consideration will be given to approaches appropriate to each pupil’s circumstance*
* *Procedures are in place, through the pastoral system of the school, for supporting and debriefing pupils and staff after every incident of RPI, as it is essential to safeguard the emotional well-being of all involved at these times.*

*The school has a duty to ensure the safety and well-being of all staff and pupils. Under certain conditions this duty must be an over-riding factor.*

*All school staff need to feel that they are able to manage inappropriate behaviour, and to have an understanding of what challenging behaviours might be communicating. They need to know what options are available for managing behaviour, and they need to be free of undue worries about the risks of legal action against them if they use appropriate physical intervention. Families need to know that their children are safe with us, and they need to be properly informed if their child is the subject of a RPI, including the nature of the intervention, and the rationale for its use. At Essendon, only acceptable forms of intervention are used.*

***Legal Criteria for use of RPI:***

* *To prevent a child from committing a criminal offence (this applies even if the child is below the age of criminal responsibility)*
* *To prevent a child from injuring self or others*
* *To prevent or stop a child from causing serious damage to property (including the child’s own property)*

*There is no legal definition of “reasonable force”. However, there are two relevant considerations:*

* *The use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of an incident warrant it;*
* *The degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent.*

*The definition of physical force also includes the use of mechanical devices (eg splints on the pupil prescribed by medical colleagues to prevent self-injury), forcible seclusion or use of locked doors. It is important for staff to note that, although no physical contact may be made in the latter situations, this is still regarded as a RPI.*

*Legal defence for the use of force is based on evidence that the action taken was:*

* *Reasonable, proportionate and necessary*
* *In the best interest of the young person*

***Who may use RPI at Essendon School?:***

*The following staff have had training in safe use of RPI. They are aware of this policy and its implications:*

*Katie Bedi ❖ Yvonne Bines ❖ Ruth Boswell ❖ Shaun Childs ❖ Terri Jenner ❖ Victoria Jones ❖ Kellie Morton ❖ Charlotte Tudway ❖ Antonia Wild ❖ Andrew Woodhouse*

*However, non-inclusion on this list does not mean that an adult is necessarily barred from using physical intervention. If the Headteacher has lawfully placed an adult in charge of children then that adult will be entitled to use RPI in line with the principles above.*

*We take the view that staff should not be expected to put themselves in danger and that removing other pupils and themselves from risky situations may be the right thing to do. We value staff efforts to rectify what can be very difficult situations and in which they exercise their duty of care for the pupils.*

***Unacceptable RPI:***

*When considering the use of RPI there are three potential components that are not acceptable.*

* *A negative impact on the process of breathing*
* *Pain as a direct result of the technique*
* *A sense of violation*

*The following can result in a sense of violation, pain or restricted breathing:*

* *The use of clothing or belts to restrict movement*
* *Holding a person lying on their chest or back*
* *Pushing on the neck, chest or abdomen*
* *Hyperflexion or basket type holds*
* *Extending or flexing of joints (pulling and dragging)*

*The following can result in significant injury:*

* *Forcing a child up or down stairs*
* *Dragging a child from a confined space*
* *Lifting and carrying*
* *Seclusion, where a person is forced to spend time alone against their will (requires a court order except in an emergency)*

***Other Physical Intervention:***

*There are occasions when staff will have cause to have physical intervention (PI) with pupils for a variety of reasons, for example:*

* *to comfort a pupil in distress (so long as this is appropriate to their age);*
* *to gently direct a pupil;*
* *for curricular reasons (for example in PE, Drama, etc);*
* *First aid and medical treatment*
* *in an emergency to avert danger to the pupil or pupils;*
* *in rare circumstances, when RPI is warranted.*

*In all situations where physical contact between staff and pupils takes place, staff must consider the following:*

* *the pupil’s age and level of understanding;*
* *the pupil’s individual characteristics and history;*
* *the location where the contact takes place (it should not take place in private without others present).*

*Physical contact is never made as a punishment, or to inflict pain. All forms of corporal punishment are prohibited. Physical contact will not be made with the participants neck, breasts, abdomen, genital area, other sensitive body parts, or to put pressure on joints. It will not become a habit between a member of staff and a particular pupil.*

***Use of a Positive Handling Plan***

*If a pupil is identified for whom it is felt that RPI may be a likely result, then a Positive Handling Plan will be completed. This Plan will help the pupil and staff to avoid difficult situations through understanding the factors that influence the behaviour and identifying the early warning signs that indicate foreseeable behaviours that may be developing. The plan will include:-*

* *involving parents/carers and pupils to ensure they are clear about what specific action the school may take, when and why*
* *a risk assessment to ensure staff and others act reasonably, consider the risks, and learn from what happens*
* *a record to be kept in school of risk reduction options that have been examined and discounted, as well as those used*
* *techniques for managing the pupil’s behaviour i.e. strategies to de-escalate a conflict, and stating at which point a RPI may be used*
* *identifying key staff who know exactly what is expected. It is best that these staff are well known to the pupil*
* *ensuring a system to summon additional support*
* *identifying training needs*

**Summary of the Policy**

* We don’t use physical intervention useless we have to, we try to find other ways round the problem: anticipate likely problems and prevent them before they start; clear other children out of the way if a child is being dangerous etc.
* Rarely, there is no option but to use intervention:
  + *To prevent a child from injuring self or others*
  + *To prevent or stop a child from causing serious damage to property (including the child’s own property)*
* In these situations, ideally only trained staff will intervene. However, where staff at the scene of an incident are not trained, they may, in their professional judgement decide that they have no choice but to intervene physically.
* Where a member of staff feels that there is no option but to intervene, he or she will use the minimum amount of force for the minimum amount of time required to make the child or others safe.
* Senior Leadership Team: Katie, Antonia, Charlotte