

**NJA Physical Restraint and Intervention Policy
Updates related to the COVID-19 pandemic - May 2020**

Given the dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic, minimalising contact between members of staff and children at school is imperative. The following details the measures put in place to minimise the risk of physical restraint being necessary and what will happen if it is necessary in the current climate. Appendix 4 of the NJA Behaviour Policy gives further details regarding expectations of pupils' behaviour during this time.

We understand the school closure will have caused some children to experience the feelings of anxiety. With this in mind, it is clear that some support in the transition back to school will be needed to be completed for all pupils returning - in particular, special consideration given to the promotion of pupils' mental health and wellbeing whilst effectively reintegrating children back into school. Following the Government Guidance on the measures schools must take in order to re-open, parents and carers must be aware that changes to routines, including start times, end times, break and lunchtimes, must be made in order to open the school safely.

NJA has prepared a risk assessment which details the measures to be taken for children and staff whilst in the school environment. Where possible, minimal physical contact between members of staff and children at school must be adhered to, to ensure all can be kept safe.

As always, it is imperative that children arrive at school ready to learn and are able to follow NJA's expectations, behaviour policy and the risk assessment. These documents can be found on the school's website.

It is important to state that all staff in school have the right to enforce this policy and that all instructions given must be followed by all children attending the setting.

- Should there be an occasion where a child does not follow the school rules or expectations, this child will then be putting members of staff and other children within the school at risk. Should this be the case, parents/carers will be contacted immediately to collect their child. It is the responsibility of parents / carers leaving their child at school to ensure they will be available and able to collect their child should this need occur.
- School use a range of strategies to support pupils in de-escalating situations where a child displays extreme behaviours, which ultimately put themselves or others at risk of harm. Where this is the case, staff in school will contact parents and explain that their child is not safe to be in school and therefore cannot remain in the school building. These instances will be taken extremely seriously and this could result in your child no longer being able to access the provision in the current climate.
- We understand that some children are vulnerable, this includes those with EHCPs (Education Health Care Plans). For these children a bespoke risk assessment will be completed. If any

actions on the risk assessment are not adhered to, a parent/carer will be contacted to collect their child.

- Any parent or carer wishing for their child to return to school following an incident from the above will require a meeting with a member of SLT. This is for the safety of the child, other children and members of staff.
- It is an expectation that whilst your child is in school, they adhere to the school's regulations in relation to hygiene: they must follow instructions for handwashing, sanitising and use of equipment. Expectations about sneezing, coughing and tissue disposal will be shared regularly with pupils; it is an expectation this is reiterated at home by parents/carers in the best interests of all parties.
- It goes without saying that any serious breaches of hygiene and sanitisation - including spitting, coughing at others and wiping fluids on others - will be taken incredibly seriously and as such, parents and carers will be called to collect their children immediately. This will be dealt with extremely seriously and consequences will be put in place.
- Children must follow guidance and instructions on how they are able to socialise in school with their peers and staff during this time; we appreciate that for younger children, further support will be needed with this. However, the expectation is that children follow instructions for the safety of themselves, their peers and staff in school. During break time, outdoor learning and indoor learning, the same rules and expectations apply.
- When moving around the school, children will - once again - be expected to follow adults' instructions, which will include always walking on the left hand side of the corridor, avoiding out of bounds areas and queueing at a safe distance. Children will be reminded of these new routines. However, should children choose not to abide by these instructions, this will constitute a breach of the behaviour policy and parents / carers will be called to collect their child.

Using physical restraint

In extreme cases where a child is putting themselves or others in danger and this cannot be averted by other means, physical restraint will be used. To do this as safely as possible, the following measures will be put in place:

- Physical Handling Plans and individual risk assessments for all pupils for whom physical restraint may be necessary will be reviewed and updated as necessary;
- All Physical Handling Plans and individual risk assessments must be agreed and signed by parents / carers prior to any pupil for whom physical restraint may be necessary returning to school;
- Where possible (i.e. time restrictions do not prevent this), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided for any members of staff who need to use physical restraint on a pupil;
- The minimum number of staff that can be used to safely restrain a pupil will be used, e.g. using a 1-person double elbow hold rather than a 2-person single elbow hold;

- Children will be released from a hold as soon as is safely possible;
- Parents / carers will be contacted as soon as possible to collect the child in question and remove them from the school site;
- Individual risk assessments will be reviewed for any pupil has to be collected from school for the above reasons before they are allowed back into school.

Appendix added **May 2020**