



The Ropemakers' Academy

PART OF THE BECKMEAD TRUST

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY

| ACADEMIC YEAR | AUTHOR | ROLE | DATE OF NEXT REVIEW |
|---------------|------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2025-26 | Neil Davie | Deputy Headteacher | September 2026 |

Ropemakers SEMH Special School: Physical Intervention Policy

1. Introduction and Vision

At Ropemakers School, we are committed to the **Restraint Reduction Network (RRN)** standards, focusing on a culture of care and the minimisation of restrictive practices. We believe every member of our school community has the right to feel safe and access support to manage their emotions. This policy outlines how we use **PRICE (Proactive, Reactive, Informed, Continuum of Care, and Education)** techniques as a last resort to maintain safety.

2. Core Principles

- **Last Resort:** Physical intervention is only used when all other de-escalation strategies have failed.
- **Minimum Force:** Any force used must be "reasonable", meaning it is the least amount of force for the shortest time possible.
- **Non-Punitive:** Restrictive interventions must never be used as a punishment or to force compliance.
- **Dignity and Safety:** Staff must seek to maintain the pupil's dignity and avoid any holds that impact the airway, breathing, or circulation.

3. Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy is informed by the **Education and Inspections Act 2006** and the **DfE 2026 Guidance**. All staff have the legal power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils from:

1. Causing injury to themselves or others.
2. Committing a criminal offence.
3. Damaging property.
4. Causing disorder that disrupts school life.

4. PRICE Techniques and Staff Training

- **PRICE Accreditation:** Ropemakers utilises the **PRICE** technique, which focuses on positive behaviour support and safe physical holds.
- **Authorised Staff:** While all staff have the legal power to intervene, planned physical interventions should ideally be carried out by staff currently trained in PRICE.

- **Emergency Response:** In unforeseen emergencies, staff must act based on a "dynamic risk assessment" to maintain safety, even if they are not the primary trained lead.

5. Seclusion

- **Definition:** Seclusion involves keeping a pupil confined alone in a place away from others and preventing them from leaving.
- **Safety Only:** Seclusion is a non-disciplinary safety measure used only when a pupil is experiencing high emotional dysregulation and there is a risk of harm to others.
- **Strict Monitoring:** Pupils in seclusion must be supervised at all times and allowed to leave as soon as the risk of harm reduces.
- **Prohibition:** It is an offence to lock a pupil in a room as this can amount to false imprisonment.

6. Prevention and De-escalation

As an SEMH school, our primary focus is proactive support. Strategies include:

- **Individual Plans:** Pupils at risk of needing intervention must have a **Therapeutic Behaviour Support Plan** detailing their specific triggers and calming strategies.
- **Environment:** Reducing sensory stimuli or removing an "audience" during a crisis.
- **Communication:** Using a calm tone of voice and providing "take up time" for pupils to process information.

7. Recording and Reporting (April 2026 Statutory Duties)

All "significant incidents" involving force or seclusion must be documented.

- **Recording:** Staff involved must record the incident in writing as soon as practicable, and no later than the end of the school day.
- **Content:** The record must include the pupil's name, triggers, de-escalation used, type of force applied, and any injuries.
- **Parental Notification:** Parents must be informed of the incident as soon as practicable, typically on the same day.

8. Post-Incident Support

- **Medical Care:** Immediate first aid or medical assessment must be provided to pupils

and staff if injuries occur.

- **Debriefing:** A follow-up conversation must occur for both staff and pupils to repair relationships and identify learning opportunities.
- **Data Review:** The Senior Leadership Team and Governors will regularly review incident data to identify trends and reduce the future need for restraint.