

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY

CATEGORY	Education
POLICY OWNER	Vice Principal Student Life, Safeguarding (DSP), Wellbeing and Belonging
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APPROVED BY	Director of Operations & Sustainability
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1. Policy Purpose

The purpose of this UWC Atlantic (the College) policy is to safeguard the well-being of students and staff when an incident requires the use of physical intervention. Its intention is to develop and encourage consistent and safe practices in the use of physical restraint. Staff should not hesitate to act in an emergency provided they follow this guidance; however, they should always satisfy themselves that the action they take would be considered justifiable by a wider audience of their professional colleagues.

2. Policy Statement

Guidance for this policy has been taken from the Welsh Government's document '*Safe and Effective Intervention – Use of Reasonable Force and Searching for Weapons*'.

3. Policy Implementation

3.1 Definition

Physical restraint is the positive, proportionate and reasonable application of force in order to protect/prevent a student from causing injury to themselves or others or seriously damaging property. It may also be used to prevent a student from engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the College or among any of its students, whether that behaviour occurs in a classroom or elsewhere.

Injury means 'significant injury'; this would include: actual or grievous bodily harm, physical or sexual abuse, risking the lives of, or injury to, themselves or others by wilful or reckless behaviour or self-poisoning.

It must be shown that, on any occasion where physical restraint is used, there were strong indicators that if immediate action had not been taken injury would have followed.

3.2 Guidance: During an Incident

In any application of physical restraint, the minimum reasonable force should be used to calm the situation. Help should be summoned from colleagues; other students should never be involved in restraint.

The student should be approached calmly but firmly. Where possible, explain the consequences of refusing to stop the behaviour and continue to communicate with the

student throughout the incident; it should be made clear that the physical contact or restraint will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary. A calm and measured approach is needed and a teacher/staff member must never give the impression that they have lost their temper, or are acting out of anger or frustration or to punish the student.

The method of restraint must use the minimum force for the minimum time and must observe the following requirements:

Restraint must NOT

- Involve hitting the student
- Involve deliberately inflicting pain on the student
- Restrict the student breathing
- Involve contact with sexually sensitive areas
- In the case of an epileptic episode, the principles of first aid demand that no restraint should be attempted

During any incident the restrainer should:

- Offer verbal reassurance to the student
- Cause the minimum level of restriction of movement
- Reduce the danger of any accidental injury
- Remove objects that might pose a risk to the personal safety of the student or member of staff

Physical intervention can take several forms. It might involve staff:

- Physically interposing between students
- Blocking a student path
- Holding
- Pushing
- Leading a student by the hand or arm
- Shepherding a student away by placing a hand in the centre of the back or (in extreme circumstances) using more restrictive holds

DO

- Be aware of any feelings of anger
- Summon help
- Continue to talk to the student in a calm way

- Provide a soft surface if possible
- Be aware of any accessories worn by you or the student
- Hold the student's arms by their side
- Remain calm

DO NOT

- Try to manage on your own
- Stop talking even if the student does not reply
- Straddle the student or hold them face down on the ground
- Push arm(s) up the back
- Touch the student near the throat or head/hold or pull a student by the hair or ear
- Put pressure on joints
- Trip up a student

All staff are reminded that corporal punishment and violence towards students is expressly forbidden.

3.3 Recording Incidents

It is important that a written report is kept on any occasion when force is used; the member of staff concerned should record on MyConcern immediately following the incident and provide a written report of the incident (Appendix 1) as soon as possible afterwards. The report will be written in the same format as other similar documents, and should include:

- the name(s) of the student(s) involved
- when and where the incident took place
- the name(s) of any other staff or students who witnessed the incident
- the reason that force was necessary
- how the incident began and progressed
- the student's response and the outcome of the incident
- details of any injury suffered by the student / another student / member of staff and any damage to property

Where body injury has occurred, staff should record details of these. The 'Log an Incident' function on Every should be used to report and record the incident and any medical care that is required.

In the first instance, staff must also ensure that the student is seen by staff in the Wellbeing Centre.

4. Related Information

4.1 Relevant Policies

Other College policies that should be consulted in conjunction with this could include:

- [Behaviour Policy](#)
- [Safeguarding and Respectful Community Policy](#)
- [First Aid Policy](#)
- [Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [Accident, Incident and Near Miss Reporting Policy and Procedures](#)

5. Policy Measurement and Reporting

The Physical Intervention Policy is reviewed annually by the Education Committee of the Board and the Vice Principal Student Life, Safeguarding (DSP), Wellbeing and Belonging as part of the annual review cycle and as part of the whole College development plan. Part of this review process will consider to what extent the policy is being used as an active working document.

The policy is communicated to the school community electronically on **Every** and is available on the UWCA website.

APPENDIX 1 - Use of Physical Intervention Record

Name and role of person making this report (PRINT):
Date and time of Incident:
Name(s) of the student(s) involved:
Location of incident:
Name(s) of any other staff or students who witnessed the incident: <i>Include full name, year group, house and role for staff.</i>
Explanation why the use of force was deemed to be necessary:
Summary of how the incident began and progressed:
Summary of the student's response to the physical intervention and the outcome of the incident:

Details of any injury suffered by the student / another student / member of staff and any damage to property:

Staff signature: