

Physical Intervention and Use of Reasonable Force Policy

1. **Objective:**

2. The primary objective of Ely Classrooms' Physical Intervention and Use of Reasonable Force Policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of students, staff, and others within our premises. Physical intervention will only be used in highly unusual circumstances and as a last resort when all other de-escalation techniques have failed.

3. **Principles:**

- a. Physical intervention will be used only in situations where there is an imminent risk of harm to the individual or others.
- b. Ely Classrooms will prioritise verbal de-escalation techniques and other non-physical interventions whenever possible.
- c. The use of physical intervention will be proportionate, reasonable, and in accordance with the law.

4. **Risk Assessment:**

5. a. Before any physical intervention is considered, a thorough risk assessment of the learner involved will be conducted.
6. b. Ely Classrooms reserves the right to refuse admission to students who, based on the risk assessment, may pose a threat to themselves or others.

7. **Training:**

8. a. All staff members involved in physical intervention will undergo comprehensive training on de-escalation techniques, risk assessment, and the use of reasonable force.
9. b. Training will be regularly updated to ensure staff are familiar with the latest best practices.

10. **Record Keeping:**

11. a. Detailed records of any physical intervention will be maintained, including the circumstances leading to the intervention, actions taken, and any injuries sustained.
12. b. Parents or guardians will be informed as soon as possible following any physical intervention.

13. **Authorisation and Reporting:**

14. a. Only trained and authorized staff members may engage in physical intervention.
15. b. Any use of physical intervention must be reported to the designated authority within Ely Classrooms promptly.

16. Debriefing and Support:

17. a. After any physical intervention, a debriefing session will be conducted to review the incident, assess the effectiveness of the intervention, and identify areas for improvement.

18. b. Staff members involved in physical intervention will be offered appropriate support to address any emotional or psychological impact.

19. Review and Evaluation:

20. a. This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains current and aligned with best practices.

21. b. Feedback from staff and other stakeholders will be considered in the ongoing evaluation and improvement of the policy.

22. Communication:

23. a. Parents, guardians, and learners will be informed of the Physical Intervention and Use of Reasonable Force Policy at the time of enrolment.

24. b. Any updates or changes to the policy will be communicated to all relevant parties in a timely manner.

25. **Legal Compliance:** Ely Classrooms will ensure that all physical intervention is conducted in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, including the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Children Act 1989.

This policy will be made available to all staff members, parents, and guardians, and its contents will be discussed during orientation sessions. Ely Classrooms is committed to maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment for all its stakeholders.

Reviewed 7/10/24 Re-review – 7/10/25