



Tunstead Primary School
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27th April 2026

Subject: Update to Behaviour Policy – Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI), in-line with DfE *Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools: Guidance for schools in England, 2026*

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you of an important update to our Behaviour Policy, in line with recent guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), which comes into effect from May 2026.

As a school, the safety, wellbeing and dignity of every child is our highest priority. On very rare occasions, staff may need to use what is known as Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI). This refers to situations where physical intervention is used to prevent harm to a child or others, serious damage to property, or significant disruption.

What this means in practice

RPI is always:

- Used as a last resort
- Proportionate and necessary
- The minimum force required for the shortest possible time

Staff are fully trained in de-escalation strategies and will always aim to resolve situations without the need for physical intervention wherever possible.

RPI may take different forms, including:

- Guiding a child to safety
- Restricting movement to prevent harm
- Supporting a child in a safe space to allow them to calm

Recording and monitoring

Following updated guidance, schools have a clear legal responsibility to record and monitor all incidents where RPI is used.

At our school:

- All incidents are recorded internally
- Records include what happened before, during and after the incident
- Senior leaders regularly review all incidents to ensure practice is appropriate and continually improving
- A summary report is shared termly with Governors to provide oversight and accountability

Communication with parents and carers

We are committed to being open and transparent with families.

- You will be informed **on the same day**, wherever possible, if RPI has been used with your child
- This will usually be via an electronic report form (email)
- In some cases, particularly where this has not been previously discussed, a member of staff will also contact you by telephone

For some children with an existing Positive Behaviour Support Plan, where strategies (including RPI) have already been agreed with parents/carers, communication may be via the electronic form only.

Reassurance

We understand that this may feel concerning, and we want to reassure you that the use of RPI is rare. It is only ever used to keep children safe. Our focus remains on building positive relationships, supporting children to regulate their emotions, and preventing situations from escalating.

We will always work closely with you if your child needs additional support, and we welcome open communication at all times.

If you have any questions about this update or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
Rebecca Quinn
Executive Headteacher
Green Shoots Federation