

Risk Assessment: Covid19 - Use of Physical Intervention in AP & Special Setting - September 2020

This risk assessment must be used in conjunction with the following: [Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings](#)

Rational:

Wellspring Academy Trust has a duty of care to safeguard its pupils at all times. When pupils are on the school site they are the responsibility of the staff, and keeping them and/or others safe may include the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) - used in line with academy behaviour policies. **This risk assessment highlights potential mitigation of risks associated with the transmission of Coronavirus and does not supersede individual Positive Handling Plans - RPIs should be managed according to individual Positive Handling Plans.**

Risk Area	Hazard	Mitigation (RAG)	Notes
Prompt - (Lowest level of restriction) Any form of touch that redirects or prompts a child into action...Example open hand on upper arm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to follow social distancing therefore some increased risk of virus transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Touch to be kept to a minimum time with emphasis on verbal de-escalation If pupil does not respond to simple prompt then consider option of encouraging/directing to an outside space Staff to wash or sanitise hands regularly and following prompt/touch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders to consider how outside space can be prepared and used for RPIs and to avoid use of small enclosed rooms for any close supervision and/or physical contact
Guide & Escort - moving a child forward but they have the ability to leave you...Example caring c guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to follow social distancing therefore increased risk of virus transmission. Prolonged physical contact increasing risk of transmission of virus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical contact to be kept to a minimum with emphasis on verbal de-escalation Consider use of outside space - pupil encouraged to self regulate in open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders to consider how outside space can be prepared and used for RPIs and to avoid use of small enclosed rooms for any close supervision and/or physical contact

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Side on escorts and guides used to prevent aerosol transmission. ● Staff to wash or sanitise hands following RPI 	
<p>Control - (moderate resistance) the child is not compliant and unable to move... Single person double elbow, 2 person single elbow.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inability to follow social distancing therefore increased risk of virus transmission. ● Increased risk of exposure to spitting and biting (risk is not from biting but from saliva associated with biting) ● Risk of staff being in close distance from other staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Small spaces (including designated 'quiet rooms or equivalent) to be avoided where possible ● Incident requires extra staff supervision with the ability to 'swap' only if essential to do so - reducing 'swapping' of staff reduces risk of adult to adult transmission ● Avoid face-to-face interactions with both children and staff ● If staff are exposed to spitting then they will be immediately replaced and will wash and sanitise ● Consider rotating staff wearing visors in the case of repeated spitting ● Team Teach Tutors to deliver 'refresher' training on 'bite-prevention' ● Dialogue from staff involved directly in the RPI to be kept to a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leaders to consider how outside space can be prepared and used for RPIs and to avoid use of small enclosed rooms for any close supervision and/or physical contact ● All Positive Handling Plans to be reviewed and shared so that staff are aware of individual histories of biting and spitting ● Team Teach Tutors to organise drop-in sessions for staff to focus on bite prevention techniques - priority is to deal with cleaning of the bite in order to prevent transmission via saliva to hands and face. Coronavirus will not be transmitted via blood or through a bite injury itself. ● Staff who are likely to be involved in RPI should be encouraged to bring a

		<p>minimum with heads facing forwards/away from each other if possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● De-escalation dialogue to be led by a third member of staff from 1m+ away. ● Staff to revisit Positive Handling Plans to be familiar with those pupils with a history of spitting and biting ● External seating areas to be used (if possible) for seated holds. Staff to wash or sanitise hands following RPI ● Staff to consider change of clothes if required - clothes should be placed in bag or in the on-site washing machine ● Any seats and or other associated furniture to be cleaned following use 	<p>change of clothes so that they can get changed following an RPI if they feel it is necessary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leaders to consider provision of changing facilities and areas where staff can wash and change if needed following a spitting incident
<p>Occasional Rigorous Resistance Restraint - (rigorous resistance) 'Physical control with the positive application of force with the intent of overpowering the client' - <i>This is the actual definition that is recognised in a court of law</i></p> <p>Example.... Seated hold, Front</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inability to follow social distancing therefore increased risk of virus transmission. ● Increased risk of exposure to spitting and biting ● Potential for a prolonged exposure and close 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incident requires extra staff supervision with the ability to 'swap' only if required - swapping staff to be kept to a minimum to reduce staff-to-staff contact ● If staff are exposed to spitting then they will be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leaders to consider levels of staff training associated with specialist techniques in order to not rely on small numbers of staff ● Leaders to consider contact with local police to explain procedures and risk assessments

Ground recovery	contact	<p>immediately replaced and will wash and sanitise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Team Teach Tutors to deliver 'refresher' training on 'bite-prevention' ● Dialogue from staff involved directly in the RPI to be kept to a minimum with heads facing forwards if possible ● De-escalation dialogue to be led by a third member of staff from 1m+ away. ● Staff to revisit Positive Handling Plans to be familiar with those pupils with a history of spitting and biting ● If a FGR is required then staff will make their best endeavours to do this in a large open space or outdoors. ● External seating areas to be used (if possible) for seated holds ● Staff to wash or sanitise hands following RPI ● Staff to change clothes if required - clothes should be placed in bag or in the on-site washing machine ● Monitor carefully and senior staff to consider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leaders to consider provision of changing facilities and areas where staff can wash and change if needed following a spitting incident
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		<p>'early' use of Police intervention if lack of regulation and de-escalation is prolonged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any seats and or other associated furniture to be cleaned following use 	
<p>Regular use of rigorous restraint with individual pupils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased level of risk due to regular requirements for restraint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual risk assessment to be undertaken to look at EHCP and health and safety implications associated with pupil's individual needs. Review of education provision may be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders must only consider the change of education provision in the most serious cases and must make judgements based on an individual risk assessment - risk assessments must be completed with reference to any relevant guidance and statutory duties.