

Path Hill Outdoors

Use of Physical Intervention Policy

Status:	Updated Policy Date:	Scheduled Review:
Voluntary Standards	September 2025	September 2027

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on:

- [Behaviour and discipline in schools](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Use of reasonable force in schools](#)

Path Hill Outdoors, its Director and Senior Management Team place no expectation on any of its staff to employ or carry out physical intervention or use “reasonable” and “proportionate” force – (meaning, according to the DfE, no more force than is necessary and in proportion to the immediate risk.)

De-escalation strategies are to be employed by staff in the event of escalating behaviour by students in accordance with our Prosocial Behaviour Policy.

An effective dynamic risk assessment is employed in every activity at Path Hill, and physical intervention is no different. It is a key requirement to enable timely decision making, justification and protection and as such is embedded in every policy and practice.

Staff should consider the students, themselves and the environment, as well as the level and immediacy of risk of harm. Staff will use *reasonable & proportionate* force to prevent imminent violence/harm/damage/etc and to end existing or occurring violence/harm/damage/etc. Staff will use “reasonable” and “proportionate” physical intervention as a **last resort** and with lawful defence *i.e.* when failing to do so could lead to greater harm or charges of negligence.

Who?

All members of staff are authorised to use reasonable force. Staff are given in house training on de-escalation techniques and safe ways to physically guide students.

If a situation arises where physical intervention may be required, the Path Hill office or a member of SMT should be contacted as soon as possible, in accordance with our Prosocial Behaviour Policy.

When?

Physical intervention must only be used when there is no alternative and when de-escalation techniques have failed and/ or when there is an imminent and actual risk of injury/ harm/ damage

What?

Measures to bring an individual under control using the minimum force necessary; physical guiding or escorting and/ or holding whilst maintaining personal safety, safe posture and non-threatening dialogue.

Clarification of techniques **NOT** to be used.

- Striking or hitting with hands, body parts or objects
- compliance holds (e.g. wrist locks)
- retaliatory violence (e.g. spitting back)
- martial arts style holds or grapples
- threats or goading

Path Hill Outdoors and its staff recognise that its students have different levels of need, understanding, triggers and threshold tolerances and therefore that individuals need to be treated differently and on a case-by-case basis.

When a student is identified as being at risk of behaviour that may require physical intervention, then handling plans will be drafted and staff made familiar with these plans if working with student.

Absconding & Managing an Escalation:

See Prosocial Behaviour Policy

Post-intervention

Once the situation has been resolved a full written report will be submitted by the nominal instructor or member of SMT and uploaded to CPOMS. The referrers and parents/carers are contacted with a report on the incident. A full post-incident debrief will be held and the continuation of student's placement will be reviewed by SMT.

Reviewed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Warwick", written in a cursive style.

Julia Warwick- Director September 2025