

Ref: DW/KH
Date: 27 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Updated Guidance on Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI)

At Pathways Learning Centre, the safety, wellbeing and dignity of every pupil is our highest priority. I am writing to share a summary of new statutory national expectations, effective from 1st April 2026, regarding restrictive physical intervention (RPI) in schools in England.

Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) refers to situations where staff may need to restrict a pupil's movement or use reasonable force to keep pupils and others safe. This will only be used as a last resort - to prevent harm, serious disruption, damage to property or a criminal offence. The use of force as punishment is illegal and will never occur at our school. However, it is already legally permissible for school staff to use physical intervention in schools.

The guidance places strong emphasis on prevention. In our school, our staff use **de-escalation** strategies wherever possible, and any intervention must be **reasonable, necessary, proportionate** and for the **shortest time possible**, with the pupil's wellbeing at the centre of all decisions and dynamic risk assessments.

You may also hear the term "Team Teach," which is our well-established approach to supporting behaviour. This focuses mainly on de-escalation and positive strategies. While it can include some physical techniques, not all are classed as restrictive physical interventions (RPI). Parents/carers will receive a written record when a physical intervention meets the threshold for RPI. An example of this written record can be found at the bottom of this letter.

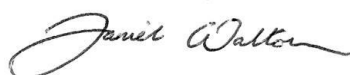
If RPI is used, the incident will be recorded, reviewed, and shared with parents/carers as soon as possible (usually the same day), typically via a phone call followed by a written report. From 1st April 2026, this recording and reporting is a legal requirement.

We will continue to work closely with families and professionals to support pupils and reduce the need for intervention, alongside ongoing staff training and regular review of our practice.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Dan Walton
Headteacher