



Tuition, Medical and Behaviour Support Service

Use of Safety Interventions at TMBSS Policy

Adopted:	March 2025
Next Review:	April 2026
Responsibility:	Lisa Bloomer

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to make clear the position of TMBSS with regards to necessary safety interventions and to safeguard the well-being of students and staff when a situation or incident requires the use of a safety intervention.

This policy is written in accordance with the DfE guidance: Use of reasonable force: Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies July 2013, which states that: "School staff have a power to use force and lawful use of the power will provide a defence to any related criminal prosecution or other legal action".

Physical Intervention and the Law

The law allows all adults who are authorised by the Headteacher to be responsible for students to use such force as is reasonable to prevent a student:

- a) Committing a criminal offence (or for younger children that which would be an offence)
- b) Causing personal injury, injury to others or damage to property
- c) Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline

It is important to note that schools do not require parental consent to use force on a student (DfE., July 2013,) staff at TMBSS out of courtesy, during the initial visit do make parents/carers aware that they will use a safety intervention on their child if they deem it appropriate. If parents are anxious about this SLT can offer to show the parents the cpi training materials which have photographs of what the safety interventions look like.

What is reasonable force?

1. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
2. Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
3. 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed." (DfE, July 2013)

Staff Training

At TMBSS the term 'safety intervention' is used to replace the term physical intervention, this is to be consistent with the training that all staff undertake namely: CPI Safety Intervention Foundation.

All staff involved with the day-to-day education of the students at TMBSS receive Safety Intervention training delivered by in house staff who are licensed by Crisis Prevention Institute (cpi) to deliver the training.

Crisis Prevention Institute work to the philosophy that they are dedicated to changing behaviours and reducing conflict for the Care, Welfare, Safety, and Security of everyone, believing in the power of empathy, compassion, and meaningful connections. Also believing that personal safety and security are the antidotes to fear and anxiety (<https://www.crisisprevention.com/en-GB/about-us/> 2025). TMBSS share these values and believe that relationships are at the heart of everything that we do. Crisis Prevention Institute's training is Certified by Bild-ACT under the Restraint Reduction Network Training Standards.

The staff delivering the training undergo rigorous training delivered by cpi. They have to attend a refresher course annually to maintain standards and good practice and to be kept up to date with any changes and updates. Licenced safety intervention trainers also have an up to date First Aid certificate.

The initial training for all TMBSS staff consists of online training direct from cpi which takes around three hours to complete and a full day in person training session with one of TMBSS's licenced trainers. Staff taking the training have to pass an online test at the end of the training, pass a paper test at the end of the face-to-face delivery and show competence in all areas of the physical disengagements and holding techniques. All of the physical disengagements and holding techniques are independently, scientifically and medically risk assessed. If any parents have any queries about cpi safety intervention techniques they are welcome to come into TMBSS and discuss them and look at the training materials.

Every year every member of staff attends refresher training with a licenced trainer.

Staff are not forced to participate in the training and those with injuries or physical disabilities do not take part in the physical aspect of the training if it will hinder them or make them uncomfortable, however, all staff see the value of the training and all staff invited to attend refresher sessions do so.

The vast majority of the safety intervention training focuses on de-escalation skills and techniques using trauma informed practice and having a restorative approach which follows the Restraint Reduction Network guidance. TMBSS prides itself on using these techniques and because of the skill of the staff the use of actual physical safety interventions is uncommon.

Using safety interventions

The use of a safety intervention at TMBSS is always a last resort and occurs only when a student is causing/about to cause physical harm to self or others, others includes staff members, visitors, members of the public etc.

When using safety interventions staff will have already thought about the effects this will have on the students based on their past experiences, culture, sex etc and will only use safety intervention techniques as a last resort.

Staff may also use safety intervention techniques if a student is damaging property/committing a criminal offence or engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline.

Staff will not use safety intervention techniques to escort dysregulated students into school when they are with their parents/carers or other responsible adult. In such cases the students will remain the responsibility of their parent/carer other responsible adult until they are regulated enough to walk into the education centre unsupported.

Staff, who have a duty of care, will escort a dysregulated student who arrives in a taxi.

Safety intervention techniques are NEVER used as a behaviour modification tool to force students to do something the adult wants them to do.

There should always be a minimum of two members of staff present when a safety intervention takes place, the vast majority of safety interventions require two people. On occasions where the student is using excessive force additional staff may be required to stabilise the intervention and keep everyone concerned safe.

No member of staff is required to employ any physical intervention strategy if they are not comfortable or confident to do so effectively.

Staff conducting safety interventions always use the minimum amount of force required for the least amount of time, they will dis-engage as soon as they feel the risk of harm has reduced significantly enough for them to safely do so.

Following a Safety Intervention

Following any safety intervention, the student and the staff are asked whether they have sustained any injuries and are offered first aid if required. When all parties are ready they discuss the safety intervention; focusing on why it occurred and what actions could be taken in the future to avoid it happening again.

If the staff are injured by the safety intervention they should seek the appropriate medical advice as soon as possible and discuss with an appropriate member of SLT. In extreme situations staff may wish to access counselling which TMBSS will provide.

The student's parents/carers and other significant adults are always contacted following a safety intervention.

Every safety intervention is recorded onto a pre-set format on CPOMs and reviewed by the Head of School, who is also a licenced Safety Intervention trainer, the Executive Head and the DSL. Safety interventions are also reported termly to governors.

Complaints

Any complaints regarding the use of a safety intervention should be submitted and handled in accordance with the TMBSS Policy.

Read this policy in conjunction with:

DfE guidance: Use of reasonable force: Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies July 2013
TMBSS Behaviour Policy
TMBSS Complaints Policy