



**Our moral obligation is to help our children become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens, and we believe that this policy for Positive Handling will help us achieve this goal.**

### **Positive Handling (Restraint of Pupils) Policy**

We acknowledge that Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 allows school personnel to use reasonable force to restrain a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- committing any offence (or, for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil);
- causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself);  
or
- prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

#### **What is Reasonable Force**

- 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.
- 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.
- 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- As mentioned above, schools generally use force to control pupils and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.
- Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.
- School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

#### **Aims**

- To make school personnel aware that they can use reasonable force to restrain a pupil only in extreme circumstances.





## **Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure**

### **Role of the Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel are aware that they can use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils in certain circumstances;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel to the school are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents.

### **Role of the Headteacher**

The Headteacher will:

- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- provide guidance and support to all staff;
- provide training for all staff on induction and when the need arises;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- notify the Chair of Trustees of any incidents.

### **Role of School Personnel**

School personnel will:

- comply with all aspects of this policy;
- take part in training in positive handling techniques as required (Team Teach);
- be aware of their responsibility in assessing risks in particular circumstances;
- make judgements when the use of force is necessary and how much force is to be used;
- report to the Headteacher all incidents of restraint and record all incidents on the appropriate report form;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community.

### **Role of Pupils**

Pupils will:

- be aware of this policy;
- listen carefully to all instructions given by the teacher;
- ask for further help if they do not understand;
- participate fully in all lessons;





- treat others, their work and equipment with respect;
- talk to others without shouting and will use language which is neither abusive nor offensive;
- liaise with the school council;
- take part in questionnaires and surveys.

### **Role of Parents/Carers**

Parents/Carers will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- be asked to take part in periodic surveys conducted by the school;

### **Minimising the need to use force**

We have the following in place in order to reduce the likelihood of any member of staff using force:

- A calm, orderly and supportive school climate.
- Strong and effective relationships between pupils and staff.
- A whole school approach to developing social and emotional skills.
- An effective staff development programme.
- Identifying when an incident is going to happen.
- Using effective strategies to manage all incidents that occur.
- Informing a disruptive pupil that force may be used before using it.

### **School Personnel authorised to use force**

All school personnel whose job involves supervising pupils may use force to restrain a pupil but only in extreme circumstance and where required staff will receive specific training.

### **When can reasonable force be used?**

- Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.
- In a school, force is used for two main purposes – to control pupils or to restrain them.
- The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.
- The following list is not exhaustive but provides some examples of situations where reasonable force can and cannot be used.





### **Schools can use reasonable force to:**

- remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and
- restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

### **Using Force**

When faced with an incident and before force is used, school personnel must:

- act in a calm and measured manner;
- show no anger or frustration;
- tell the pupil to stop misbehaving or restraint will be used but will stop when the pupil behaves.

School personnel may use the following types of force:

- **passive physical contact** by standing between pupils or by blocking a pupil's path;
- **active physical contact** by using restrictive holds, leading a pupil by the arm or hand or ushering a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back.

School personnel must make every effort not to harm a pupil or restrain a pupil that could be interpreted as sexually inappropriate conduct.

### **Power to search pupils without consent**

In addition to the general power to use reasonable force described above, headteachers and authorised staff can use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances to conduct a search for the following "prohibited items":

- knives and weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property.





Force **cannot** be used to search for items banned under the school rules.

### **Risk Assessments**

Risk assessments are in place for:

- a variety of potential incidents
- individual pupils

### **School Personnel Training**

School personnel will be trained in our policy procedures as required and with Team Teach.

### **Reporting Incidents**

All incidents will be reported to the Headteacher who will inform parents of the incident.

### **Recording and Reporting Incidents**

#### **Reporting Incidents**

All incidents will be reported to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher who will inform parents of the incident. Details will be recorded on the pupil's log.

#### **Post-incident Support**

After an incident has occurred the following procedure will take place:

- First aid if necessary
- Medical help if necessary
- Emotional support to pupils and school personnel
- Discussions with parents

### **Complaints and Allegations**

All complaints will be dealt with by using the procedures as stated in the school Complaints Policy.

### **Raising Awareness of this Policy**

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- Inset Days
- School website
- Meetings with parents
- Meeting with school personnel





## **Training**

We ensure all school personnel have equal chances of training, career development and promotion.

Periodic training will be organised for school personnel so that they are kept up to date with new information and guide lines concerning equal opportunities.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

## **Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy**

Bi-annually the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team and any recommendations made to the Board of Trustees.

