

## **Use of Physical Restraint**

*This policy is based on the recommendations and stipulations laid out in the DFEE Circular 10/98. Copies of this are available on the government web site. In any incident requiring further clarification this document should be referred to.*

### **Aims**

It is our aim that physical restraint be used only in exceptional circumstances. Only when its use will prevent harm and not in circumstances where its use may endanger the safety of anyone involved.

### **Authorised persons**

All teaching staff are authorised to use physical restraint, in accordance with this policy, during the times at which they have lawful charge of the pupil concerned.

Other staff may be authorised by the Head, and this will be agreed with them and a copy of the policy provided.

Visitors to the school are not authorised to use physical restraint unless previously and expressly agreed with the Head.

Whenever possible and as quickly as possible additional adults and members of staff should be brought to the scene.

### **When physical restraint may be appropriate.**

Physical restraint should only be used as a last resort.

Staff are not obliged to intervene in this way when their personal safety is at risk or where they believe such interventions may lead to accusations of assault.

Incidents that may warrant the use of restraint will usually fall in to one of these three categories.

1. In self-defence or because of imminent risk of injury to pupils or staff.
2. Where there is a developing risk of injury, or significant damage to property.
3. Where a pupil is behaving in a way that compromises good order and discipline.

### **Degree of force**

There is no formal definition of reasonable force.

Force will be regarded as reasonable if the circumstances in which it occurred warranted the use of force, i.e. not when a non-physical means would have resolved the situation or when the situation does not fall within the scope of the above outlined circumstances.

The degree of force should always be the minimum necessary and be proportionate to the seriousness of the behaviour or circumstances it is intended to prevent.

The degree of force appropriate will therefore depend also on the age, strength and understanding of the pupil.

### **Reporting**

All incidents in which non-trivial physical restraint is used should be recorded.

Records should be made at the time.

They should include

- The name(s) of the pupil(s) involved.
- The names and signatures, if possible, of any witnessing staff.
- The reason for the use of force (e.g. to prevent injury).
- Details of the incident as it developed.
- The pupil's behaviour and responses.
- Details of any injuries or damaged sustained during the incident.

All records should be handed directly to the Head.

The Head will arrange for the parents to be made aware of the incident in a manner they see fit.

### **Training**

It is the school's policy that upon request or when necessary any authorised member of the school community will be given relevant training in these areas.

**Designated Staff Member** Katie Dorney

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