

# Care and control Policy

## Introduction

This policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils and for volunteers working within the school to explain the school's arrangements for care and control. Its contents are available to parents and pupils.

The policy has been developed in response to the recommendations of Circular 10/98 "The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils", issued following the enactment of Section 550A of the 1996 Education Act.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the school's policy on Behaviour which relates to interactions between adults and pupils.

## Purpose of policy

Good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure good order in our school. It is recognised that the majority of pupils in our school respond positively to the discipline and management practiced by staff. This ensures the well-being and safety of all pupils and staff in school. It is also acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, staff may need to take action in situations where the use of reasonable force may be required.

Every effort will be made to ensure that all staff in this school:

- (i) clearly understand this policy and their responsibilities in the context of their duty of care in taking appropriate measures where reasonable force is necessary and
- (ii) are provided with appropriate training to deal with these difficult situations.

## **However individual members of staff cannot be required to use physical restraint.**

The application of any form of physical control places staff in a vulnerable situation. It can only be justified according to the circumstances described in this policy. Staff, therefore, have a responsibility to follow the policy and to seek alternative strategies wherever possible in order to prevent the need for physical intervention.

Reasonable force will only be used as a last resort when all other behaviour management strategies have failed or when pupils, staff or property are at risk

## Definitions

### (a) Physical Contact

Situations in which proper physical contact occurs between staff and pupils, e.g., in the care of pupils with learning disabilities; in games/PE; to comfort pupils.

### (b) Physical Intervention

This may be used to divert a pupil from a destructive or disruptive action, for example guiding or leading a pupil by the hand, arm or shoulder with little or no force.

### (c) Physical Control/Restraint

This will involve the use of reasonable force when there is an immediate risk to pupils, staff or property. All such incidents must be recorded on CPOMs.

#### 4. **Underpinning values**

Everyone attending or working in this school has a right to:

- recognition of their unique identity;
- be treated with respect and dignity;
- learn and work in a safe, positive and orderly environment
- be protected from harm, violence, assault and acts of verbal abuse

Pupils attending this school and their parents have a right to:

- individual consideration of pupil needs by the staff who have responsibility for their care and protection;
- expect staff to undertake their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the school's policies;
- be informed about school rules, relevant policies and the expected conduct of all pupils and staff working in school;
- be informed about the school's complaints procedure.

#### **Strategies for dealing with challenging behaviour**

Warning of intention to intervene physically and that this will cease when the pupil complies. If possible summon assistance.

Physical intervention. Reasonable force uses the minimum degree of force to prevent a child harming him or herself, others or property.

#### **Escalating situations**

The 1996 Education Act (Section 55O A) stipulates that reasonable force may be used to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do any of the following:

- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether the behaviour occurs in a classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere (this includes authorised out-of-school activities);
- self-injuring or placing him or herself at risk;
- injuring others;
- causing damage to property, including that of the pupil himself or herself;
- committing a criminal offence (even if the pupil is below the age of criminal responsibility).

## Acceptable measures of physical intervention

The use of any degree of force can only be deemed reasonable if:

- (a) it is warranted by the particular circumstances of the incident;
- (b) it is delivered in accordance with the seriousness of the incident and the consequences which it is desired to prevent;
- (c) it is carried out as the minimum to achieve the desired result;
- (d) the age, understanding and gender of the pupil are taken into account;
- (e) it is likely to achieve the desired result.

Wherever possible assistance should be sought from another member of staff before intervening.

**Physical intervention uses the minimum degree of force necessary for the shortest period of time to prevent a pupil harming himself, herself, others or property.**

This form of physical intervention may involve staff:

- physically interposing themselves between pupils;
- blocking a pupil's path;
- escorting a pupil;
- shepherding a pupil away.

In extreme circumstances, trained staff may need to use more restrictive holds.

Any such measures will be most effective in the context of the overall ethos of the school, that is:

- to provide a safe and orderly atmosphere, which is the most effective teaching and learning environment in which pupils can make choices and learn from the consequences
- to create a safe environment for pupils and staff through clarification of expectation, roles, rights and responsibility

The way in which staff exercise their responsibilities and the behaviour management strategies used should:

- ensure the safety and well-being of pupils who are exhibiting challenging behaviour, their peers, the general public and members of staff  protect the pupil's entitlement to dignity and self respect
- protect staff members entitlement to dignity and self respect
- promote good behaviour which supports achievement and learning
- assist pupils in developing and demonstrating appropriate social skills
- protect pupils from self-inflicted abuse or injury

Wherever reasonable force is used, staff must keep talking to the pupil.

## **Recording**

Where physical intervention has been used to manage a pupil, CPOMS will be completed as soon as possible after the incident, normally prior to staff going off duty and all DSL's will be alerted..

In addition, specific details of the use of reasonable force may include:

- how the incident developed;
- attempts made to calm the situation;
- names of any staff or pupils who witnessed the incident;
- the outcome of the incident including any injuries sustained, by any pupil or member of staff;
- any damage to property which has resulted;
- whether/how parents have been informed;
- and, after investigation, a summary of actions taken.

## **Monitoring of incidents**

Whenever a member of staff has occasion to use reasonable force, this will always be recorded and documented. Monitoring of incidents will help to ensure that staff are following the correct procedures and will alert the Headteacher to the needs of any pupil(s) whose behaviour can only be contained by the use of reasonable force

This process will also address patterns of incidents and evaluate trends which may be emerging.

**Date of Policy: Spring 2024**