

KEYHAM BARTON CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Restraint Policy



**School policy on the use of force by staff to control
or restrain pupils**

February 2016

This policy takes guidance from

Use of reasonable force

Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies produced by the DFE in July 13 which can be found at

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/u/use%20of%20reasonable%20force%20-%20advice%20for%20headteachers%20staff%20and%20governing%20bodies%20-%20final%20july%202013_001.pdf and in the staff room.

Objectives

The main objective of this policy is to create an ethos in the school where use of force to restrain a pupil is not necessary. Use of restraint should be avoided wherever possible and strategies to de-escalate a situation should be employed.

However if a situation arises where the use of force is necessary then staff need to know how to react.

Correct use of force

- can maintain the safety of pupils and staff
- can prevent serious breaches of school discipline
- can prevent serious damage to property

Minimising the need to use force

Minimising the need to use force begins with an adult's manner and attitude towards children both in normal and in stressful situations. If the adult can remain calm then the child is more likely to do so.

Methods to use to minimise the need to use force include

- creating a calm environment that minimises the risk of incidents arising that might require using force
- ensuring the Christian values of the school Mission Statement are reinforced in every aspect of school life.
- using Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) approaches to teach pupils how to manage conflict and strong feelings
- recognising triggers which may prompt particular behaviours
- de-escalating incidents if they do arise – give the child a way out of the situation
- only using force when the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved in not using force
- risk assessments and positive handling plans for individual pupils.

Staff authorised to use force

All staff, authorized by the Head teacher to have control or charge of pupils, automatically have the statutory power to use force. This includes all teachers, teaching assistants and meal time assistants.

Some staff such as the administrator, PSA and caretaker do not normally have control of pupils but will have temporary authorisation to use force if they decide that they or a pupil are in danger of injury. CRB checked volunteers will also have temporary authorization if they are in control of a group of pupils.

Deciding whether to use force

The law explains when reasonable force can be used

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006¹ enables school staff to use reasonable force to prevent a pupil from:

- a.** committing a criminal offence (or, for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil);
- b.** causing personal injury or damage to property; or
- c.** 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.

However even in these circumstances staff should only use force when:

- the potential consequences of not intervening were sufficiently serious to justify considering use of force;
- the chances of achieving the desired result by other means were low; and
- the risks associated with not using force outweighed those of using force.

The use of force should be used as a protective measure and NEVER as a punishment.

The guidance gives examples of situations where the use of force would be seen as reasonable.

Examples of situations that particularly call for judgments of this kind include:

- a.** a pupil attacks a member of staff, or another pupil;
- b.** pupils are fighting, causing risk of injury to themselves or others;
- c.** a pupil is committing, or on the verge of committing, deliberate damage to property;
- d.** a pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or object;
- e.** a pupil absconds from a class (or detention²) or tries to leave school other than at an authorised time.

Refusal of a pupil to remain in a particular place is not enough on its own to justify use of force. It would only be justifiable where allowing a pupil to leave would:

- i. entail serious risks to the pupil's safety (taking into account age and understanding), to the safety of other pupils or staff, or of damage to property; or*
- ii. lead to behaviour that prejudices good order and discipline, such as disrupting other classes;*
- f. a pupil persistently refuses to follow an instruction to leave a classroom;*
- g. a pupil is behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a lesson; or*
- h. a pupil is behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a school sporting event or school visit.*

32. *In these examples use of force is likely to be construed as reasonable (and therefore lawful) if it was clear that the behaviour was sufficiently dangerous or disruptive to warrant physical intervention of the degree applied and could not realistically be dealt with by any other means.*

Using force

If the decision to use force has been made staff must only use the minimum force necessary to achieve the desired result. They should

- Give a clear oral warning to the pupil that force may have to be used;
- Be aware that any form of restraint that is likely to injure a pupil (particularly anything that could constrict breathing) should only be used in extreme emergencies and where there was no viable alternative
- Avoid using force unless or until another responsible adult is present to support, observe and call for assistance.

Recording and reporting incidents

If an incident does occur when force has been used the record form (Appendix 1) and witness statements (Appendix 2) should be filled in as soon as possible after the incident.

Ideally it is best to telephone parents as soon as possible after the incident before confirming details in writing. It is also good practice for parents to be given a copy of the school's policy on the use of force and information on post-incident support at the same time.

All adults with parental responsibility should be informed of the incident unless there is knowledge that it is likely that reporting an incident to a parent will result in significant harm to the pupil. If that is the case then the incident should be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer. (Simon White 307144)

Post-incident support

After an incident when force has been used to restrain a pupil, support will be put in place for both the pupil and the adult involved.

Most immediately this support will include addressing physical needs and treating any injuries that may have occurred to either party.

Staff will be made familiar with the procedures in the 'Allegations of abuse against staff' guidance in case allegations are made.

Meetings will be arranged to discuss the incident with both parties focusing on

- how the situation could have been avoided
- how to ensure there is no repeat
- how to rebuild relationships between the parties

Complaints and allegations

If parents feel there is the need to complain about the handling of the situation they will be directed to the Complaints Policy.

If an allegation of abuse is made then the procedures in the guidance referred above will be followed.

Monitoring and review

The headteacher's termly report to governors will include reference to any significant incidents where a member of staff has used force on a pupil.

The governor with responsibility for safeguarding will monitor the impact of this policy.

The policy will be reviewed annually.

Details of pupil on whom force was used: name, class, any SEN, disability or other vulnerability	
Date, time and location of incident	
Names of staff involved (directly or as witness)	
Details of any other pupils involved (directly or as witnesses) including name, class, any SEN, disability or other vulnerability	
Description of the incident by staff involved, including any attempt to de-escalate and warnings given that force might be used	
Reason for using force and description of force used	
Any injury suffered by staff or pupils and any first aid and/or medical attention required	
Reasons for making a record of this incident	
Follow up including post incident support and any disciplinary action against pupils	
Any information about incident shared with staff not involved in it and external agencies	
When and how those with parental	

responsibility were informed about the incident and any views they have expressed	
Has any complaint been lodged (details should not be recorded here)	
Report compiled by	
Role	
Date	
Report counter-signed by	
Name and Role	
Date	

**Use of Force to Restrain Incident Witness Statement
Keyham Barton Catholic Primary School**

My view of what happened including who was involved and what they said and did.