

REDLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

RESTRAINT POLICY

Definition

Restraint occurs when a member of staff uses physical force intentionally to restrict a child's movement against his or her will. It should rarely be used. Physical contact with pupils may occur under other circumstances such as providing physical prompts, giving support in PE and supplying reassurance. The term restraint does not extend to these situations. Staff should not be inhibited in providing such contact when it is professionally necessary to do so.

This policy should be read and understood in conjunction with the school's behaviour policy and the HCC booklet 'Planning and recording physical intervention in schools', a copy of which is in the school office and can also be accessed here

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/search?cx=009988739743092233991%3A4hx6rzq-ig&cof=FORID%3A11&q=restraint+guidelines>

When may a pupil be restrained?

Restraint should only be used to keep people safe. It should be avoided wherever possible. Other methods of managing an incident must be tried first unless this is impractical.

Restraint may be used to prevent a pupil:

- injuring themselves or others
- damaging property
- causing disorder

In the case of a pupil trying to abscond from the school premises, staff should only restrain if the pupil is putting him/herself at risk by doing so. It is reasonable to prevent a pupil from leaving the school if their emotional state suggests they pose a risk to themselves. If a pupil leaves the premises, the child's parents and the police may be called.

Although a situation may require restraint it may be unwise for staff to intervene without support. Staff should not feel obliged to intervene against their better judgement. In these circumstances staff should remove pupils who are at risk and summon assistance from a senior member of the teaching staff.

Where it is known that an individual may need to be restrained, an individual plan should be drawn up with the SENCO and Head or Deputy. The parents of the individual should be informed and provided with details. This plan should include strategies for de-escalating any incidents that may occur, arrangements for securing additional support and clarification of the type of restraint that may be used.

How may pupils be restrained?

Any restraint must be consistent with the concept of *reasonable force*. 'Reasonable', in the circumstances, is no more force than is needed. This must take into account two key considerations:

- the circumstances must warrant the use of force
- the degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances and should constitute the minimum necessary to achieve the desired result.

Reasonable force may include:

- physically standing between pupils
- leading a pupil by the hand or arm, or by gentle pressure on the centre of the back
- standing in the way of a pupil

Unreasonable force includes:

- holding around the neck
- holding, pushing or pulling.
- any hold that might restrict breathing
- kicking, slapping or punching
- tripping

- holding by the hair
- holding the pupil face down on the ground.

Who may restrain pupils?

Everyone has a right to use reasonable force to prevent an attack against themselves or others, whether they are formally authorised or not.

All staff are authorised to use restraint as detailed in this policy but only if the policy has been read and the member of staff has indicated by signature that they understand what is required. This includes times when pupils may be taking part in school trips away from the premises.

What to do during an incident of restraint.

- Remain calm.
- Maintain communication with the pupil throughout the incident and give clear verbal warning that restraint might be used to ensure everyone remains safe.
- Seek assistance from a senior member of staff as soon as possible.

What to do after an incident of restraint.

- Notify the headteacher or a senior member of staff as soon as possible after the incident.
- Never leave the child involved unattended until they have fully recovered from the incident.
- Formally record what happened using the Restraint Incident Report Form as soon as possible. Staff may seek advice from a senior colleague or a representative of their professional association when compiling a report.
- Staff injuries must be recorded in the staff accident book.
- Parents should be informed promptly, by the headteacher or other senior member of staff.
- Police to be contacted at the discretion of the headteacher and after informing the parents.
- When appropriate, a record should be made of the child's view of the incident.
- Confidential Well-Being Helpline available for employees if required (023 8062 6606)

Responsibility - Headteacher

RR related articles

Article 3 - The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them. All adults should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children

Article 24 and 19 – Every child has the right to be safe.

Date Agreed: 20 May 2010

Date Reviewed: 4 April 2017

Date for Next Review: May 2019