

Policy for the use of Physical Restraint

Definition

Physical restraint occurs when a member of staff uses physical force intentionally to restrict a child's movement against his/her will.

When may pupils be restrained?

Restraint should be avoided whenever possible. On some occasions using force can be counter productive. Other ways of managing the incident as outlined in the Care and Control policy must be tried first unless this would be impractical.

As prescribed in the Criminal Law Act 1967 and the Children's Act 1989 the main grounds on which restraint will be used in this school are

To prevent a child injuring themselves or others.

Damaging property.

Leaving the premises, as doing so would put very young children at risk.

Guidelines for using restraint

Staff should call for assistance from another member of staff before using physical restraint if at all possible.

Staff should not feel obliged to intervene against their better judgement. In these circumstances staff should remove other pupils who are at risk and call for assistance by sending another adult or "Call for help" card to the office.

Where it is known that a child may need to be restrained a plan for managing situations should be devised .

This should contain ideas for de-escalating the problem that have been found to be effective with that child.

The plan should be devised in consultation with parents and shared with all relevant staff.

How pupils should be restrained

The degree of force used must be in proportion to the circumstances and should constitute the minimum necessary to achieve the desired result.

Staff should avoid if at all possible restraining in any way which could cause the child injury e.g. holding joints.

Staff should talk to the child in a calm manner throughout the incident and warn the child that restraint may be necessary if he/she does not comply with the teacher's request to calm down.

Who may restrain pupils?

Everyone has the right to use reasonable force to prevent an attack against themselves or others whether formally authorised or not.

Teachers, classroom assistants, mid-day supervisors and other support staff are authorised to use restraint for the reasons outlined above.

These arrangements apply during the times the school has responsibility for pupils and extends to times when pupils are off-site on educational trip.

What to do after an incident of restraint

The Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher should be notified as soon as possible.

A record should be made of the incident by staff involved immediately.

The restraint Incident Report form should be completed by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher and the members of staff involved.

A copy of this form should be kept in the school file, the child's file and sent to the appropriate department of the LEA.

In addition it may be necessary to complete a Violent Incident record and any staff injuries sustained must be recorded separately in accordance with the Health and Safety Procedures.

Parents should be informed as soon as possible and given the opportunity to discuss the incident.

The Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher is responsible for deciding how and when parents are notified.

No member of staff should discuss an incident with parents alone.

Children should be given the opportunity to talk about the incident and have their views recorded if appropriate to the age of the child.

Staff who have been involved in a difficult incident are entitled to receive support either from within the school or from the County Council's support counselling service. {01962 846388-24hr help line}