

USE OF REASONABLE FORCE POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The use of reasonable force should always be a last resort for teachers and support staff, however, like all schools, we reserve the right for our staff to use reasonable force to control or restrain a pupil in specific circumstances.
- 1.2 The '*Education and Inspections Act*' 2006, in conjunction with the Department for Education (DfE) guidance '*Use of Reasonable Force*' 2013, enables school staff to use '*such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do*' any of the following:
 - 1.2.1 '*Committing any offence (or, for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil)*';
 - 1.2.2 '*Causing personal injury to any person (including the pupil themselves)*';
 - 1.2.3 '*Causing damage to the property of any person (including the pupil themselves)*'; and
 - 1.2.4 '*Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school, and among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.*'
- 1.3 The Act also defines to whom the power applies as follows:
 - 1.3.1 '*Any teacher who works at the school*'; and
 - 1.3.2 '*Any other person whom the head teacher has authorised to have control or charge of pupils.*'

2. TRAINING

- 2.1 A select group of staff at Tudor have been trained in Positive Handling. A list of names is displayed in school so other staff are aware of who they can contact for support if required.
- 2.2 All staff are trained in the circumstances in which reasonable minimum force may be used, both as part of their induction and regular refresher training on managing pupils' behaviour. Our training offers clear, precise advice and guidance to staff on our restraint policy so that there can be no confusion. In particular, staff are advised:
 - 2.2.1 Use your voice first: verbal instructions should be given before and during any physical intervention;
 - 2.2.2 Use force only when necessary to resolve the incident: this should be the minimum force required, lasting for the shortest practicable time – the purpose should be restraint and the reduction of risk; and
 - 2.2.3 Do not strike blows or retaliate against pupils: to do so would exceed your authorisation to intervene, and create a significant risk of an allegation of assault being made.
- 2.3 Training specifically deals with the factors that must be considered in reaching a judgement as to whether the use of physical restraint is appropriate that are set out in the '*Use of Reasonable Force*' guidance published July 2013 which includes:

- 2.3.1 *'remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;*
- 2.3.2 *prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;*
- 2.3.3 *prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;*
- 2.3.4 *prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and*
- 2.3.5 *restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.'*

3. REASONABLE FORCE

- 3.1 Schools cannot use force as a punishment – it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.
- 3.2 If using force, staff are advised wherever possible to give clear oral warnings to the pupil that force may have to be used:
 - 3.2.1 They should use as little force as possible to achieve the desired outcome;
 - 3.2.2 They may use passive force e.g., stand between two pupils or more active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm;
 - 3.2.3 If there is a risk to serious injury or death more force may be required e.g. to stop a pupil from stepping into a busy road;
 - 3.2.4 Staff should never use force without another adult present;
 - 3.2.5 If dealing with an older pupil, or a physically large pupil, or more than one pupil, or if the staff member believes the pupil may be at risk of injury, the staff member should seek help and support from either another member of staff or where necessary phone the police. The staff member must inform the pupil (s) that they have sent for help.

4. REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING

- 4.1 All instances where force is used must be recorded in the incident file kept by the Deputy Head Pastoral.
- 4.2 Every member of staff will inform the Headmistress immediately after he/she has needed to restrain a pupil physically and provide a written report on CPOMS (if they have access to the system) as soon as possible. The school will always inform a parent when it has been necessary to use physical restraint and invite them to the school, so that we can, if necessary, agree a protocol for managing that individual pupil's behaviour.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

5.1 Further information is contained in DfE guidance [Use of Reasonable Force](#), July 2013

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