

Nanledra School



Physical Restraint Policy

Reviewed: February 2015

Next review: February 2017

INTRODUCTION

This policy is based on guidance outlined in DFE (July 2011) Use Of Reasonable Force. The circular refers to the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which clarifies the position regarding the use of physical force by teachers and other staff working in schools, to control or restrain pupils. Staff should also refer to the whole school policy on behaviour and discipline.

PART I

Staff should refer to the Local Authority policy 'Guidelines for the Use of Physical Restraint in Schools and Social Care Settings' for more detailed advice. This is available in the policies file in the school office, on the school website policies page and in the safeguarding resources in the staffroom.

At NANCLEDRA SCHOOL we believe that the use of reasonable force is only necessary to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing a criminal offence
- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property, including their own
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, in the classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere, such intervention would only occur if normal positive behaviour management had not worked.

At Nancledra School all teachers are empowered to use restraint. Only support staff who have completed Team Teach training are empowered to use restraint.

Current staff with Team Teach training are;

- Mr Gill
- Mrs Gallie
- Mrs Manley

The use of restraint should always be a last resort. If practical before intervention, a calm warning or instruction to stop should be given and every effort should be made to achieve a satisfactory outcome without physical intervention. **In all circumstances help must be sent for, even when immediate intervention is necessary.**

Restraint can take a variety of forms, many of which are outlined in DFE (July 2011) Use Of Reasonable Force and in the Local Authority guidelines referred to above. Staff should always avoid touching / holding a pupil in a way that might be considered inappropriate. Force, where used, should always be reasonable. There is no definition of 'reasonable force'; it should always be proportional to the circumstances of the incident. It should be used only to control or restrain and never with the intent to cause pain or harm. It must, therefore, be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result. In any action, due regard has to be taken to the age, understanding and sex of the child / young person.

Regular changeovers of staff should where possible occur during a protracted holding episode, the child / young person must continue to be given opportunities to calm and de-escalation strategies should be attempted. Team Teach techniques seek to avoid injury to the child / young person, but it is possible that bruising or scratching may occur accidentally, and these are not to be seen necessarily as a failure of professional technique, but a regrettable and infrequent side effect of ensuring that the child / young person remains safe. Any adjustments to professional technique are examined in the recording and reporting phase of the procedures in light of any issues arising out of a crisis episode.

Nanledra School accepts and understands that in accordance with the law corporal punishment is forbidden.

PART II

Where restraint has been necessary, the incident must be reported to Mr Gill or Mrs Ashby and logged.

A report should be written and filed using the Local Authority forms which can be obtained from the school office.

In the event of an injury occurring, the appropriate H/S61 or HSW5 must be completed and the accident reporting procedures must be followed. Parents / carers of the children / young people involved will always be advised of an incident and it may be necessary for it to be followed up by other disciplinary action or pastoral support.

At least 3 members of staff will be provided with training on the use of restraint by the Local Authority and will be expected thereafter to arrange guidance for all other staff members both teaching and non-teaching. All parents / carers must be made aware this policy. All new members of staff, part time staff and supply staff will be expected to read this policy.

Preferred Practice

DO

- Wherever possible plan appropriate positive intervention and involve parents / carers and colleagues.
- Know the procedures within the school / setting's guidelines for the use of physical restraint.

A copy of these are available from school office. Discuss these with a senior member of staff if you are unsure of any point.

- Be aware of children / young people who have been physically restrained before and what happened.
- Send for adult help early if things begin to get out of hand and restraint seems likely.
- Assess the situation before acting.
- Stay calm – do not over-react.
- Use minimum restraint for minimum time until the situation is calm.
- Report the incident to the headteacher or senior member of staff as soon as possible and complete a report form.
- Consult your Line Manager, Professional Association or Trade Union if you have any concerns.
- Remember your professional obligations to all children / young people in your care.

DO NOT

- Place yourself at risk: do not attempt to restrain a child / young person who obviously carries a “weapon”.
- Attempt to restrain a child / young person when you have lost your temper.
- Allow the situation to get out of control.
- Use unreasonable force.
- Place yourself at risk of false allegation: avoid being alone with any child / young person.