

# POLICY FOR FOURLANESEND C P SCHOOL ON THE USE OF FORCE TO CONTROL OR RESTRAIN PUPILS

## ***Aims:***

- to provide guidelines for staff on the use of force to control or restrain
- to ensure that staff work within Local Authority policy

## **INTRODUCTION**

This policy is based on guidance outlined in Circular 11/07 - 'The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils'. 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 positive behaviour 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 safeguarding file in the Head Teacher's office.

At Fournalanesend C P 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 Fournalanesend C P School some staff members (see Appendix 1) have undertaken "Team Teach" positive handling training and therefore need to be asked to attend to a situation and use physical restraint if necessary. **However, all teachers are empowered to restrain.** This should be done only in an emergency to prevent a pupil from injuring themselves or others, unless the teacher has also undertaken "Team Teach" positive handling training.

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 Circular 11/07 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. "Team Teach" techniques minimise the risk of such occurrences and should be used whenever possible. 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.

**The 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 a senior colleague, the Head Teacher or Head of Teaching and Learning, and logged. **A report should be written and filed using the Local Authority forms which can be obtained from the Head Teacher's office and is also available from Policy and Guidelines for the use of Physical Restraint in School and Care Settings which is on the staff server, in the policies 20/21 file under Safeguarding and a printed copy is on the staffroom wall (find form in appendix).**

**In the event of restraints being used that meet the thresholds as identified in page 17 of the guidance (e.g. prone holds or injury occurrences), this should be reported to the Senior Safeguarding Manager, Safeguarding Children Unit.**

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 involving team teach methods and it may be necessary for it to be followed up by other disciplinary action or pastoral support.**

A minimum of one member of staff will be trained on the use of restraint, with more trained if working with pupils particularly likely to need positive handling, 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.

This policy on restrictive physical intervention (positive handling) is an integral but discrete element of the school / setting's individual behaviour management policy.

Date: September 2023

Signed: Rebecca Norton Head Teacher

**Date of policy:** September 2023

**Date of review:** September 2024

### **Preferred Practice**

#### **DO**

- Wherever possible plan appropriate positive intervention and involve parents / carers and colleagues.
- Know the procedures within the school's guidelines for the use of physical restraint.  
  
Copies of these are available from the Head Teacher. 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.

## APPENDIX 1: List of Team Teach trained staff

Name	Date
Rebecca Norton	28/06/2023
Sally Adams	03/02/2022
Jenna Welch	28/06/2023
Louise Fiore	03/02/2022

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