



## Policy Statement for the use of Physical Restraint of children

### Definition

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

### When may a pupil be restrained?

Restraint should be avoided whenever possible. It is never a substitute for good behaviour management. Other methods of managing the incident must be tried first, unless this would be impractical.

### Minimising the need to use force

To minimise the need to use force the following are used in this school by

- Creating a calm environment
- Using Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) approaches to teach pupils how to manage conflict and strong feelings
- De-escalating incidents if they do arise
- Only using force when the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved in not using force
- Risk assessments and positive handling plans for individual children

The main reason for using restraint is to keep people safe.

Restraint may be justified to prevent a pupil:

- Injuring themselves or others (e.g. attacking staff or other pupils)
- Damaging property (e.g. deliberate vandalism).
- Engaging in behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline

However **KS2** children **should not** be restrained from leaving the classroom, school building or school premises if one of the above criteria are not met. Parents/carers will be immediately informed - if they are not available the police will be contacted.

**KS1/Foundation Stage** children will be restrained from leaving the school premises in all circumstances if they are attempting to run off.

In the case of pupils absconding from the premises, it would be reasonable to prevent a pupil from leaving the school, if their emotional state suggests that they pose a risk to themselves.

Circular 10/98 and Nov 2007 revised guidance states that the use of physical restraint may be permissible to control a pupil who is "*engaging in behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline*".

Although a situation may warrant restraint, it will 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, initially from other senior members of staff. Help is best summoned via another adult, but a child will suffice if no other adult is available.

If it is known that an individual pupil may need to be restrained, on a regular basis, an "individual action plan" or risk assessment must be written and shared with the parents detailing:

- Possible strategies for de-scaling the problem
- Arrangement for securing additional support and clarification of holds to be used.
- Any medical advice

### **How may pupils be restrained?**

What form of restraint to use is subordinate to whether it is warranted at all? Any restraint must be consistent with the concept of "*reasonable force*". There are two key considerations:

- The circumstances must warrant the use of force. Committing a trivial misdemeanour would not constitute grounds for constraint.
- The degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances and should constitute the minimum necessary.

Where restraint is used a pupil should be held by the long bone and not a wrist or ankle.

Using physical contact to punish a pupil or to cause pain, injury or humiliation is explicitly forbidden. Staff are not allowed to restrain:

- Out of anger
- Out of frustration
- In any way which could cause the child injury.

Holding children face down on the ground is particularly hazardous, as there is an enhanced risk of suffocation. During an incident, staff must always caution the pupil that restraint may be necessary. This will be done in a calm and measured manner. Staff will also maintain communication with the pupil throughout the incident.

Staff must avoid touching or holding pupils in ways that could be construed as abusive. Physical contact is likely to become increasingly inappropriate as pupils reach adolescence.

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
- Holding, pushing or pulling

Unreasonable force may include

- Holding round the neck
- Any hold that might restrict breathing
- Kicking, slipping or punching
- Forcing limbs against joints
- Tripping
- Holding by the hair
- Holding the pupil face down on the ground

### **Who may restrain pupils?**

Apart from teachers, only those "specially authorised" by the Head teacher can use physical restraint.

Under these circumstances, the Head teacher of Mansbridge Primary School authorises all Admin. Staff, Learning Support Assistants and Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants.

This policy will apply during the time the children are on the school premises and when the children are on educational visits of any duration, whether they be half day, local visits or residential trips.

### **Staff training**

Staff will be updated on our use of restraint during the child protection training on the first INSET day of the academic year.. They will also have training advice given during any termly safeguarding training. This may take place during a weekly staff or an LSA meeting.

Informing stakeholders

Parents will be update regularly on this policy and there will be links on the school web site.

### **When to involve the police?**

If any person has suffered from, or is being threatened with, any personal injury and requires qualified medical attention then the police will be informed.

### **What to do after an incident of restraint?**

Staff must notify the Head teacher or a senior member of staff as soon as possible after an incident. This should then be recorded on the child's behaviour log. If requested by a member of the leadership team they must also formally record what happened using the Restraint incident Report Form, no later than the beginning of the following day.

Please see an example attached to this policy.

In addition, it may be that, at this early point, further advice could be sought from a professional association.

Any staff injuries or violent attacks on staff must be recorded separately and reported to a senior teacher as soon as possible after the incident.

Parents must be informed promptly and given the opportunity to discuss the incident. After discussion, and if necessary, the parents should be informed of the school's official complaints procedure.

Consistent with the principles of the Children's Act 1989, pupils who have been restrained must be given the opportunity to record their views when they have calmed down.

The school will ensure that staff, who have been involved in a difficult incident, should have access to an internal de-briefing and support as required. If staff wish to receive support, independent of the school, it can be provided by the Southampton Support and Counselling Service. The telephone number is contained on payslips periodically.

A full copy of the DCSF November 2007 revised guidance on use of force to control or restrain pupils can be found in the staffroom. It is recommended that every member of staff read it.

This policy has been produced using guidance from the following materials:-

1. Mansbridge Primary School Behaviour Policy
2. The Criminal Law Act 1967
3. The Children's Act 1989
4. DfEE Circular 10/98 and 10/95
5. Education Act 1996 Section 548-550
6. Child Protection Guidance - Hampshire 1997
7. School Security - DfEE
8. Guidelines for the use of physical restraint September 1999
9. Article 5 Human Rights Act 1999 - Public Body has a Duty of Care
10. November 2007 DCSF Revised guidance on use of force to control or restrain pupils

Adopted 20 March 2002

Readopted 19 March 2003

Readopted 25<sup>th</sup> February 2004

Readopted 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Readopted 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007

Readopted 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Readopted 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Readopted 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Readopted 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011

Readopted 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012

Readopted 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Readopted 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Appendix A

Mansbridge Primary School



USE OF FORCE TO CONTROL OR RESTRAIN PUPILS: INCIDENT RECORD

Details of pupil or pupils on whom force was used by a member of staff (name and class)	
Date time and location of incident	
Names of staff involved (directly or as witnesses)	
Details of other pupils involved (directly or as witnesses), including whether any of the pupils involved, were vulnerable for SEN, disability, medical or social reasons.	
Description of the incident by the staff involved, including any attempts to de-escalate and warnings given that force might be used	
Reason for using force and description of force used	
Any injury suffered by staff or pupils and any first aid and/or medical attention required	
Reasons for making a record of the incident	
Follow up, including post-incident support and any disciplinary action against pupils	
Any information about the incident shared with staff not involved in it and external agencies	
When and how those with parental responsibility were informed about the incident and any views they have expressed	
Has any complaint been lodged (details should not be recorded here)?	
Report compiled by:	Report countersigned by:
Name and role:	Name and role:
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date