



West Road Primary School Restraint Policy

The use of Reasonable Force to Protect and Restrain Pupils

1. Introduction

This document gives details of the context in which restraint might be used to protect a child from hurting themselves or others, or seriously damaging property.

The behaviour policy at West Road Primary School is designed to prevent physical incidents from occurring. All staff encourage pupils to maintain good standards of behaviour and self-discipline at all times.

2. The Legal Framework

Staff working with children have a duty to safeguard the child's welfare. Sometimes, this obligation overrides a child's right not to be touched. Section 550A of the 1996 Education Act allows teachers and others named by the Headteacher, to intervene physically intervene, and/or to use reasonable force to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- Committing a criminal offence, or what would be such if they were above the age of criminal responsibility;
- Injuring themselves or others;
- Causing damage to property;
- Engaging in behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order at school (on school premises or on an authorised out of school activity).

3. Examples of Situations where Physical Intervention may be necessary

- Fighting
- A pupil attacking another pupil or a member of staff
- Deliberate vandalism
- Risk of accidental damage or injury (e.g. rough play or running on stairs)
- Persistent refusal to leave the classroom
- Absconding from the premises

Using physical restraint is a last resort – de-escalation techniques will be tried first and all staff who restrain children will be Team-Teach trained. Staff should ensure that all other means have been exhausted. Physical restraint is not used as a substitute for behaviour management.

At West Road Primary School we understand that if a child has a Special Educational Need it may result in behaviour in which physical intervention is needed. In this case we will write a behaviour plan and positive handling plan to respond appropriately. Plans will include agreed strategies and communication with parents and all staff will be given a copy of every behaviour plan.

4. Examples of Acceptable Physical Intervention

- Stepping between pupils or blocking a pupil's path
- Holding or leading a pupil by the arm
- Shepherding a pupil with a hand in the small of the back
- Caring 'C'
- T-Wrap

Physical intervention is not used as a punishment and staff will adopt a calm approach.

In all circumstances of using physical intervention staff will immediately send for help even when immediate intervention is required. Staff will use the orange card system as a way of alerting an emergency situation where a member of staff is needed immediately.

5. Points to be Considered in a Restraint Situation

- Attempt to deal with the situation through non-physical strategies
- Tell the pupil to stop and explain the consequences of not complying
- Make it clear that physical contact will stop when the pupil complies with the teacher's instructions

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- Maintain a calm demeanour throughout
- In situations where the teacher might be at risk of injury, for example, when dealing with an older, bigger pupil, s/he should remove other pupils who may be at risk and summon help
- Use minimum restraint for minimum time

6. Recording Incidents Involving Restraint

- After any incident the 'Record of Physical Restraint' should be completed by the member of staff involved and details of the incident should be discussed with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher before the end of the day
- When an incident involving restraint has taken place, the pupil's parent/guardian/carer should sign the restraint form to show that they have been informed that the pupil has been the subject of restraining action.