



THE USE OF FORCE TO CONTROL OR RESTRAIN PUPILS POLICY

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Following clarification of the law concerning the powers of teachers to use force in exceptional circumstances, the Governing Board of Barlby Bridge Community Primary School wish to make it clear that the clarification does not authorise the use of corporal punishment and it does not encourage the use of inappropriate force. Staff are expected to continue to use the school's support mechanisms to defuse difficult situations.

1. It is the policy of the school that only exceptionally may physical restraint be used on a pupil by any adult working with the school.
2. It is accepted that there are situations where it is necessary to physically assist a pupil in the course of work. (eg a PE teacher assisting a pupil to do a difficult manoeuvre or helping somebody who is injured; a music teacher showing a child how to place fingers on an instrument). Any actions should be done in a way which avoids giving rise to misunderstandings.
3. **This policy allows for the physical restraint of pupils in disciplinary or dangerous situations. It does not include any form of corporal punishment and should be limited to the force absolutely necessary to prevent injury to the pupil or any other pupil or member of staff, to prevent a pupil causing damage to property or behaving in a manner which is severely disruptive of pupils' work, or to prevent a pupil committing a crime.**
4. Where a pupil is recognised as likely to behave in ways which may require physical restraint, then an individual plan will be prepared on action to be taken when necessary.
5. Adults must not put themselves into physical danger in any circumstances. If self-defense is necessary then the minimum force must be used. It is for the Head (or deputy headteacher in her absence) to decide if the police should be called.
6. Any force used must be appropriate in the sense that a "reasonable adult" would think it a proportionate or suitable response in the circumstances. It should always be the last resort and in no circumstances should it be used in anger or to inflict pain.

7. **There may be occasions when the responsible adult is angry. At those times it would be wise to seek help. Any force must always be the minimum required to address the situation.**
8. Staff must not hold pupils in such a way that they may be injured or prevented from breathing. Pupils must not be slapped, kicked or punched, held face down on the ground, have limbs twisted, be pulled by the hair or ears or tripped.
9. **If physical force is used on a pupil the Head or Deputy must be informed at once. The name of the pupil will then be recorded along with the time, circumstances, witnesses, details of any injury sustained and the pupil's response.**
10. Whenever possible the parents will be notified before the pupil arrives home and they will be given the opportunity to discuss the incident.
11. The Head may judge it appropriate to inform a professional representative of such an event.
12. In the event of a complaint the normal complaints procedures should be followed. Specific guidelines on the abuse of children may also come into play. Contact may be made with the social services.

Related document DfEE Circular 10/98