



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

Learning Together for the Future

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

March 2024

This policy is ratified by the Student and Curriculum Sub-Committee.
This is a non-statutory policy and is reviewed every two years.

1.Statement of Intent

At The Ecclesbourne School, we are committed to a positive behaviour policy which encourages children to make positive behaviour choices. We do however recognise that children sometimes do make the wrong choices. On rare occasions this may result in a situation that requires some form of physical intervention by staff.

Our policy for physical intervention is based upon the following principles;

- Physical intervention should be used only as a last resort when other appropriate strategies have failed
- Any physical contact should be only the minimum required
- Physical intervention must be used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned
- Incidents must be recorded and reported to the Head Teacher as soon as possible
- Parents will be informed of each incident.

2.The Legal Framework .

Section 93 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 allows 'teachers and other persons who are authorised by the Head Teacher who have control or charge of pupils to use such force as is reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following;

- Causing injury to his/herself or others
- Committing an offence
- Damaging property
- Prejudicing the maintenance of good order & discipline

The use of restrictive physical intervention should be consistent with the Department for Education (DfE) Use of Reasonable Force guidance (2013) which sets out the conditions under which reasonable force might be used in schools and the joint guidance from the Department for Education and the Department for Health and Social Care entitled Reducing the Need for Restraint and Restrictive Physical Intervention (2019), which details the context in which restraint should be used. School staff should recognise their duty of care both through what they actively do, and through what they refrain from doing.

Safety is always a paramount concern and as such staff are not required /advised to use restrictive physical intervention if it is likely to put them at risk themselves.

3. Our approach

At The Ecclesbourne School we aim to avoid the need for physical intervention and regard this as a last resort in a tiny minority of situations. We always aim to deal with behaviour using a positive approach and therefore this policy should be read in connection with our Behaviour Policy.

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate and staff will exercise their own professional judgement in situations which arise within the above categories.

Staff should always act within the school's policy on behaviour and discipline, particularly in dealing with disruptive behaviour.

Staff should be aware that when they are in charge of children during the school day, or during other supervised activities, they are acting in loco parentis and have a 'Duty of Care' to all children they are in charge of. They must, therefore, take reasonable action to ensure all pupils' safety and wellbeing.

Staff are not expected to place themselves in situations where they are likely to suffer injury as a result of their intervention.

4. Use of physical restraint

Physical restraint should be applied as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allowing the pupil to regain self-control. It should never take a form which could be seen as punishment.

Staff are only authorised to use reasonable force in applying physical restraint, although there is no absolute definition of this. What constitutes reasonable force depends upon the particular situation and the pupil to whom it is being applied. However, as a general rule, only the force necessary to stop or prevent danger should be used, in accordance with the guidelines below. In all circumstances, alternative methods should be used as appropriate with physical intervention or restraint methods used as a last resort.

Preferred Practice

DO ...

- Wherever possible **plan appropriate positive intervention** and involve parents, carers and colleagues.
- **Be aware of students** who have been physically restrained before and what happened. They will often have a risk assessment put in place which you should familiarise yourself with
- **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 Head Teacher 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 students in your care.

DO NOT ...

- **Place yourself at risk:** do not attempt to restrain a student who obviously carries a “weapon”.
- Attempt to restrain a pupil 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 student.

Staff must be fully aware that the use of any degree of force or restraint is unlawful if the circumstances do not warrant the use of physical force.

5. Written Report

After any incident requiring the physical restraint of a student a written report in the form of “The Restraint – Incident Form” below, must be submitted to the relevant Head of School and thence to the Head Teacher and student file. This will need to include:

- a) How the incident began and progressed including a description of the student’s behaviour.
- b) What was said by each party.
- c) The steps taken to calm or defuse the situation.
- d) The type of restraint used and with what degree of force and for how long.
- e) The student’s response and outcome of the incident.
- f) Injuries sustained by the student, another student or member of staff and any damage to property.

This report should, wherever possible, be completed within 12 hours of an incident occurring. It is also desirable that a member of staff, independent of the incident should ascertain if injuries have been sustained.

RESTRAINT INCIDENT FORM		
Name of School:		
Name of Pupil:	DOB:	Yr:
Events Leading to this Incident		
Where did the incident occur?		
When did the incident occur? Day:..... Date:		
How did the incident begin?		
Describe the Incident		
What was happening at the time?		
Was anyone else involved?		
Did anyone else see what happened? (give details)		
What behaviour was the pupil presenting that warranted restraint?		
Was there damage to property or an assault on a pupil or staff during the incident?		
What did you do to try to defuse the situation before using restraint?		
RESTRAINT INCIDENT FORM Cont.		

<p>(i) How was the pupil restrained? (describe)</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>(ii) For how long?</p> <p>(iii) By how many staff members?</p> <p>(iv) Were they authorised?</p>
<p>Injuries Sustained</p>
<p>Was anyone injured? YES/NO</p> <p>If yes, give details</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>Was this recorded in the accident book? YES/NO</p>
<p>Was the pupil checked for injuries by a member of staff who was not involved in the incident? YES/NO</p> <p>If yes, by whom?</p>
<p>Was this a notifiable incident?.....</p>
<p>Implications for Future Planning</p>
<p>What do you think this behaviour was about?</p> <p>eg. attention; emotional release; task escape mechanism; other</p>
<p>Are other staff aware of the need for a planned response to the pupil? YES/NO</p>
<p>Follow up Action</p>
<p>The incident was reported by:</p>
<p>Parent/Carer was informed by:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> Letter (with pupil) <input type="checkbox"/> Letter (post) <input type="checkbox"/> Personally</p> <p>When were they informed? Time:Date:</p> <p>Incident form completed by:</p> <p>Post held:</p>

The School will inform parents of an incident involving their child. The Head Teacher will decide whether to inform parents at once, or at the end of the school day and whether this should be done in writing or orally.

6. Risk Assessments

If we become aware that a child is likely to behave in a disruptive way, then a risk assessment will be produced. This will cover at least the following areas;

- Strategies to be used prior to intervention
- Ways of avoiding 'triggers' if these are known
- Involvement of parents to ensure that they are clear about the specific action the school might need to take
- Briefing of staff to ensure they know exactly what action they should be taking (this may identify a need for training or guidance)
- Identification of additional support that can be summoned if appropriate
- The school's duty of care to all pupils and staff

7.Complaints

Complaints will be dealt with by the Head Teacher/SLT in the first instance in line with the School Complaints procedure.