



School Context

Kensworth C of E Primary School nurtures a culture of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We encourage our pupils to make positive behaviour choices. However, pupils sometimes do make the wrong choices. On rare occasions this may result in a situation that requires some form of physical intervention by staff. As part of this, the school maintains a policy to indicate when physical intervention is appropriate, and the form it may take.

Policy Aims

This policy aims to:

- Clearly define the circumstances in which the use of reasonable force may be considered appropriate.
- Ensure that staff know and understand what positive handling options are acceptable and what are not.
- Ensure that staff feel safe and supported in carrying out their duties.

The Legal Framework

Section 93 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 allows 'teachers and other persons who are authorised by the Headteacher 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

This policy has been written within the guidelines of the DFE 'Use of reasonable force' advice for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies July 2013.

Definition of Reasonable Force and Restraint

The DFE guidance (2013) on the 'Use of Reasonable Force' defines and explains these terms in the following way:

Reasonable Force

- The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
- Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a pupil needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
- 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.



Restraint

- Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.
- School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.
- All members of staff who can use reasonable force have a legal power to use it. This power applies to any member of staff at the school who is trained in using physical restraint techniques.

The DFE Guidance 2013 states that schools can use reasonable force to:

- remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event, trip or a visit;
- prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and
- restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

Schools cannot use force as a punishment - it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

Policy Principles

Our Restraint policy is based upon the following principles:

- Physical intervention is used only as a last resort when other appropriate strategies (de-escalation) have failed.
- Any physical contact is only the minimum required.
- Physical intervention is used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.
- Incidents are recorded and reported to the Headteacher.
- Parents are informed of each incident.

Policy and Procedures

We aim to avoid the need for physical intervention and regard this as a last resort in a 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 (KPS-012).

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate. Staff exercise their own professional judgement in situations which arise within the above categories. Staff act within our school's policy on behaviour and discipline, particularly in dealing with disruptive behaviour. Once again it is stressed that physical intervention is only used when all other strategies have failed to have the desired effect on a pupil's behaviour.



Planned Intervention

Planned intervention may be undertaken by trained named staff only.

Planned interventions may be necessary when a risk assessment has highlighted the potential need for frequent physical intervention as the pupils are at risk of harming themselves or others and causing damage to property.

Planned interventions are:

- Agreed in advance through consultation with all stakeholders
- Implemented under the supervision of a trained member of staff
- Recorded; detailing method, circumstance and agreement
- Included as part of the child's individual plan
- Routinely reviewed

Unplanned/Emergency Intervention

This may be undertaken by any staff member.

Unplanned interventions should use 'reasonable' force commensurate with the risk to prevent serious injury only. Intervention should only take place when the adverse outcomes that may be associated with intervention (eg, potential injury, distress etc) are less severe than the adverse consequences of the action or behaviour.

For personal safety staff should:

- Maintain a calm and measured approach to the situation
- Remove other children who may be at risk
- Summon assistance and inform the child that you have sent for help
- Attempt to diffuse the situation orally and try to prevent escalation of the situation – sometimes this will mean that you stop talking to the child
- If necessary, remove themselves to a safe distance but continue to keep the child under strict supervision throughout.

Prior to any physical intervention, staff should:

- Give verbal instructions to stop/change behaviour and warn/share detail of the physical intervention that will take place
- Communicate with the child throughout the incident
- Make it clear that physical contact will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary

Recording and reporting

Every unplanned/emergency use of physical intervention must be reported immediately to the Headteacher, who will ensure that the child's parent are notified the same day. Details of the incident must be recorded.

Planned interventions will be reported to parents/carers by the child's class teacher. The Headteacher will be notified immediately of any physical restraint through receipt of the completed form who will notify the



child's parents/carers the same day. An Incident Report and Investigation Form should also be used to record details of any incident in which physical or psychological harm occurs as a result of an incident or intervention.

Complaints

This policy, adhered to by all staff and shared with parents, should help to avoid complaints from parents. However, it is unlikely to prevent all complaints and a dispute about the use of force by a member of staff might lead to an investigation under our Complaints Policy (KPS-023) If, following preliminary investigations it is deemed necessary, the Headteacher will contact the LADO in line with our Safeguarding Policy (KPS-017).

Support for Staff and Pupils

Incidents involving confrontation, especially those involving physical intervention, can cause anxiety and emotional trauma. Pupils and staff members who have been involved or who have witnessed the incident, may need the chance to discuss what happened and given the necessary time to recover prior to continuing with their duties.

Monitoring and Review

It is expected that this policy will be reviewed at least every two years as part of the Governing Bodies policy review process.