



KINGSWOOD HOUSE SCHOOL

RESTRAINT OF PUPILS POLICY

This policy relates to the whole school including the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Reviewed by: Campbell McKelvie (Compliance) **Date:** 13 October 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Everyone has the right to defend themselves against attack. Any member of staff may intervene in an emergency if a pupil is in immediate risk of injury or on the point of inflicting injury on someone else.

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides all school staff, including non-teaching staff, with the power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property or causing disorder. School staff should only use reasonable force, including restraint, as an intervention when it is safe, lawful and absolutely necessary.

It needs to be recognised that the misuse of reasonable force or restrictive practices can have a significant and long-lasting effect on pupils, staff members and parents. Therefore, pupils should only be restrained, by means of reasonable force, when there is no other option available to deal with a situation. Staff should always try to avoid getting to the point where restraint is necessary, and attempt to calm difficult situations so that restraint is not used.

Any use of force/restraint must be reasonable, proportionate, necessary and justifiable for the circumstances in which it is used.

GUIDELINES

1. The law clearly forbids a teacher using any degree of physical contact, which is deliberately intended to punish, or primarily cause pain, injury or humiliation.
2. The touching, physical restraint, use of force against or constraint of a pupil is something to be approached with great caution. Such acts may result in accusations of either criminal offence or result in civil action.
3. Occasions when restraint of a pupil may be necessary would include:
 - i) stopping a pupil committing an offence (e.g. assault someone or criminally damage property)
 - ii) preventing a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event, a school trip or visit;
 - iii) preventing 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;
 - iv) removing a pupil from the classroom, who is behaving in such a way as to seriously disrupt a lesson, where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
 - v) preventing a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stopping a fight in the playground;

- vi) restraining a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts; and
- vii) pupils running in corridors or stairways in such a way as to endanger the safety of others.

Restraint in any of the above circumstances **must only be used when there is no alternative** to the use of physical restraint.

5. Restraint may involve blocking the path of pupils, positioning oneself between pupils, touching, holding, pushing, pulling or leading a pupil by the arm or shepherding a pupil away, by placing a hand in the centre of the back.
6. Only in the **most exceptional circumstances**, and when there is no alternative, can a person justify using force upon a pupil which might reasonably be expected to cause injury.
7. Physical restraint must involve the **minimum force** necessary to prevent injury or remove the risk of harm and should be gradually relaxed as the pupil gains self-control. Physical restraint **must not** be used to gain compliance with staff instructions, when there is no immediate risk to the pupil or to other individuals.
8. As a general principle, teachers should not make unnecessary physical contact with their pupils. However, there are occasions when physical contact is appropriate and/or necessary, e.g. on those occasions in the course of teaching when, for example, a pupil is being shown how to use a piece of apparatus or equipment or while demonstrating a move or exercise during PE or IT. The administration of First Aid will inevitably involve physical contact and First Aiders should ensure that others are present in circumstances when physical contact could be misconstrued. Any comforting gestures must always be acceptable to the pupil concerned.
9. Staff are NOT expected to restrain a pupil if, by so doing, they consider they put themselves at unacceptable risk.
10. Where possible, any incident resulting or likely to result in the restraint (or use of force) to a pupil should have another member of staff present.
11. Where a child has been restrained they must be provided with appropriate medical and emotional care immediately afterwards.
12. A record must be made of any use of force/restraint and must include:
 - i) the date, time and place of the restraint;
 - ii) the name of the child who was restrained;
 - iii) information about the child's behaviour, which led to the restraint;
 - iv) a description of the restraint used and the degree of force applied;
 - v) any injuries that are apparent, or complained of, and details of any medical and/or emotional care provided;
 - vi) details of those present; and
 - vii) details of anyone who was required to assist with the restraint.
13. A copy of incident report must be given to the Head Teacher, the DSL and placed in the pupil's file. It may be made available to persons outside of the school (e.g. parents, governors, consulting professionals).
14. Parents must be advised of the incident on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable, and given the opportunity to discuss the incident. Parents should be informed of the following:
 - i) the pupil's behaviour and the level of risk presented at the time of the incident;
 - ii) the degree of force used and any injuries that resulted;
 - iii) the subsequent effect on the pupil or member of staff concerned.