

BUTTERCUP PRIMARY SCHOOL

Physical Restraint Policy

Date Agreed: 2017 Review Date: 2019

Signed: _____
Proprietor

Rationale

“At Buttercup Primary School we believe that the need to physically control or restrain a child is a serious and final action which will only ever be used if a child is in danger of harming themselves or other children or adults. Physical restraint will never be used as a punishment or as a means of dealing with difficult behaviour.” However we do understand that occasionally it may be necessary to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils.

Aims

The aim of this Policy is to identify types of incidents that may require reasonable force, to clarify the term ‘reasonable force’ and who might use it.

Guidelines Planning ahead:

When the school is aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a way that may require physical control or restraint it is sensible to plan how to respond if the situation arises. This planning should address –

- Managing the pupil;
- Involving the parents to ensure that they are clear about what specific action the school might need to take;
- Briefing staff to ensure they know exactly what action they should take; • Ensuring additional support can be summoned if appropriate;
- Taking medical advice if necessary as to the safest way to hold pupils with specific health needs.

When might reasonable force be necessary?

To prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following –

- Committing a criminal offence (including behaving in a way that would be an offence if the pupil were not under the age of criminal responsibility);
- Injuring themselves or others;
- Causing damage to property (including the pupil’s own property);
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in a classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere.
- Absconding. This applies when a teacher, or other authorised person, is on the school premises, and when he or she has lawful control or charge of the pupil concerned elsewhere e.g. on a trip or other authorised out of school activity.

Everyone has a right to defend themselves against attack, provided they do not use a disproportionate degree of force to do so. In an emergency, if a pupil is at immediate risk of injury or on the point of inflicting injury on someone else, any member of staff would be entitled to intervene.

Authorised Staff

All Teachers at the school are allowed to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils. The Head Teacher should identify people, other than Teachers, who they wish to authorise to have control, or charge of pupils and therefore be able to use force if necessary. All those who are asked to physically restrain a child must have had formal training, By Ms Shaheda (Deputy Head) (LSA)

Types of incidents.

There are three broad categories of incidents in which reasonable force might be appropriate-

1. Where action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury;
2. Where there is a developing risk of injury, or significant damage to property;
3. Where a pupil is behaving in a way that is compromising good order and discipline.

Some examples;

These fall within Categories One and Two –

- A pupil attacks a member of staff, or another pupil;
- Pupils are fighting;
- A pupil is engaged in, or is on the verge of committing, deliberate damage or vandalism to property;
- A pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects;
- A pupil is running in a corridor or on a stairway in a way in which he or she might have, or cause, an accident likely to injure him or herself or others;
- A pupil absconds from a class or tries to leave school, putting them at risk.

These fall within Category Three-

- A pupil persistently refuses to obey an order to leave a classroom;
- A pupil is behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting a lesson.

What is reasonable force?

As there is no legal definition of 'reasonable force', it will always depend on circumstances. Always consider –

- Do the circumstances warrant reasonable force?
- Is the degree of force in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or the consequences it is intended to prevent?
- Is the force the minimum needed to achieve the desired result ?

Physical force may involve –

- Interposing between pupils.
- Blocking a pupil's path.
- Holding.
- Leading a pupil by the arm.
- Shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back.

Procedures

- If practicable tell the pupil who is misbehaving to stop, and what will happen if he or she does not;
- Continue to attempt to communicate with the pupil throughout the incident;
- Make it clear that physical restraint or contact will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary;
- At all times Teachers should be calm and measured in their approach;
- Teachers should not intervene if an incident may put them at risk of injury;
- If necessary, remove other pupils who might be at risk of injury, and summon assistance.

Monitoring

At least one staff member must take responsibility during physical intervention for;

- Communicating positively with the individual and
- Monitoring their well being

There should be clear leadership and communication with colleagues and others present.

De-escalating should take place at the earliest opportunity-immediately if there are health concerns. All staff should be prepared for a medical emergency and must consider a health check by a qualified person for the child and the staff involved in restraining.

Recording incidents

There should be detailed formal recording of occasions where force is used, see Appendix A. Parents will be notified.

Other physical contact:

Physical contact with a pupil may be proper or necessary in order to-

- Demonstrate exercises or techniques during PE lessons;
- Administer First Aid;
- Provide young children with physical prompts or help;
- Comfort a pupil in distress;
- Reassure very young pupils.

Be aware that some pupils may dislike physical contact of any kind because of their cultural background or because they have been abused.

Conclusion

This Policy should ensure that all members of the school community are aware of what is deemed reasonable force according to circumstances and the correct procedures to employ, in order to maintain a calm learning environment. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review The school will review this Policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The Policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Draft: Annex A

RECORD OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Name of Pupil: DOB: Class _____

2. Events leading to this incident

2.1 Where did the incident occur?

2.2 When did the incident occur? Date; Time:

2.3 How did the incident begin?

3. Describe the incident

3.1 What was happening at the time?

3.2 Was anyone else involved?

3.3 Did anyone else see what happened? (give details)

3.4 What behaviour was the pupil presenting that warranted restraint?

3.5 Was there damage to property or an assault on a pupil or staff during the incident?

3.6 What did you do to try to defuse the situation before using restraint?

3.7

(i) How was the pupil restrained? (describe)

e.g. two people escort; one person wrap; supine control

(ii) For how long?

(iii) By how many staff members?

(iv) Were they authorised?

4. Injuries sustained

4.1 Was anyone injured? YES / NO

If yes, give details

4.2 Was this recorded in the accident book? YES / NO

4.3 Was the pupil checked for injuries by a member of staff who was not involved in the incident? YES / NO

If yes, by whom?

5. Implications for future planning

5.1 What do you think this behaviour was about? e.g. attention; emotional release; task escape mechanism; other

5.2 What would you do differently next time to avoid the need for physical restraint?

5.3 Are other staff aware of the need for a planned response to the pupil? YES / NO

6. Follow up Action

6.1 The incident was reported by: (designation:)

6.2 Parent/Carer was informed by:

Telephone Letter (with pupil) Letter (post) Personally

When were they informed? Time:

Date:

Incident form completed by:

Post held:

Date:

Copies to: School File