

**Brighter Futures Academy Trust  
Luddendenfoot Academy**

**Physical Intervention Policy**



<b>Name of Policy Writer/Amendments</b>	<b>Date Written/Amended</b>	<b>Next Review Date</b>
L. Johnson	July 2013	July 2014
L. Johnson	May 2014	July 2015
V. Dear	November 2015	October 2016
V. Dear	October 2016	October 2017
V. Dear	April 2018	April 2020

## **Rationale**

If a child has lost all self-control and is either about to attack someone, use equipment in a manner that may cause harm to themselves or others or about to run and put themselves in harm physical intervention/restraint may need to be used as a last resort. Because they are so agitated, stressed, anxious or tense, they will have a great deal of strength and energy, and even small, slight children will be very difficult to manage.

As all the other strategies have failed, and the child has “lost it” then the teacher/carer’s responsibilities are as follows:

- to prevent injury/harm to the child themselves
- to prevent injury/harm to other children
- to prevent injury/harm to themselves
- to prevent serious damage to property

## **For the Purposes of this Policy**

- Reasonable force is defined as using no more force than is needed in the circumstances
- Physical restraint is defined as the positive application of force in order to protect/prevent a pupil from causing injury to themselves or others or seriously damaging property. It is necessary in more extreme cases, for example to stop a physical fight. Physical restraint can only be undertaken by appropriately trained staff who have completed ‘Team teach training’. A list of appropriately trained staff can be found at all schools in the staffroom and office.
- Injury means ‘significant injury’; this would include actual or grievous bodily harm, physical or sexual abuse, risking the lives of, or injury to, themselves or others, by wilful or reckless, behavior.

## **Who can use ‘reasonable force.**

- All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force
- This power applies to any member of staff at the school.
- The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

## **When can Reasonable Force be used?**

Reasonable force can be used

- to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.
- to control pupils or to restrain them where they are putting themselves or other at risk
- to remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- to prevent a pupil behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a school event or a school trip or;
- to 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;
- to prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the

playground

- to restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts

### **Decision-making**

The adult must be prepared to make judgements and act according to the need:

- do something quickly
- prevent risk to people and property
- send for further adult assistance and where possible appropriately trained adults

It is always helpful to have other staff to be a witness to the circumstances, and to help if required.

### **Procedures and Protocols to be followed when using physical restraint;**

- Child should be warned that intervention/restraint will be needed before it is carried out.
- It should be the least physically demanding level of intervention/restraint, as is required to control the child.
- It should not put the child at risk of more physical harm (e.g. choking with strangle holds, breaking fingers or arm when hands or arms are twisted etc.).
- As soon as it is safe, any restraint should be relaxed.
- The wellbeing of the child needs to be monitored and medical needs taken into account during any restraint.
- Throughout a period of restraint staff will seek to verbally reassure a child and explain verbally to them what is happening as is appropriate e.g. we are going to stay in this room, we are going to remove your shoes
- Other colleagues should be called to assist/witness the restraint being taken.
- In extreme circumstances external agencies may need to be contacted.
- Restraint should not be used to make the child comply, where there is no risk to others or property.

### **Procedures to be followed after an incident involving the use of reasonable force or physical restraint.**

- The whole incident should be discussed with the Head teacher or member of the SLT ASAP.
- Following a situation where a child has been restrained the incident will NOT be discussed further with them until a later time, this may be the next day or even later to avoid increasing the child's arousal and returning to the highly stressed state and re triggering a situation.

- On another day you may choose to discuss what had initiated the increase in stress/anxiety leading to the situation and loss of control. This will be done in an appropriate place away from other pupils with a member of the SLT or the Learning Mentor.
- Adults having to use physical intervention or restraint can often experience a stress reaction and need to talk to others about these feelings to their colleagues and or managers and may need releasing from their duties for a while. Pupils witnessing the event may also experience this and will also be given time to talk and support from staff as appropriate so they feel reassured.
- Staff and children involved will be asked to write down what occurred, or asked to say what occurred with a member of staff acting as a scribe, these statements will be written in pen, signed and dated and all passed to the Head teacher to inform further appropriate actions. This must be done ASAP. These will be discussed with parents, statements will be added to CPOMS and a copy of the physical intervention record scanned and added to the system.
- Parents will be informed ASAP when reasonable force or physical intervention has been used with their child, they will be invited into school to discuss the incident with the Head teacher or a member of the SLT and members of staff as appropriate.
- Pupils with additional needs who may display difficult behaviours on a regular basis may have a behaviour plan in place with agreed strategies to minimise the potential use of reasonable force/restraint.

This policy should be read and used in conjunction with other school policies including; Behaviour, SEND/Inclusion.

## **Appendix 1 – Physical Restraint/Intervention Recording sheet**

### **Dissemination and Review**

This policy has been written using advice taken from Use of Reasonable Force, Advice for Head teachers, staff and Governing Bodies DfE 2013 The school acknowledges its legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEND). Equality Act 2010, SEN and Disability Code of Practice 0-25 years 2014.

This policy, once approved by the Local Governing Body, will be reviewed annually.

