

Policy on the use of force to control or restrain pupils

OBJECTIVES

This school endeavours to ensure that all children are kept safe in school.

The main objective of this policy is to ensure all staff, parents and pupils are aware of the procedures and practice that will be carried out to ensure that this is the case at the school. This policy has direct links with the schools behaviour policy and the anti-bullying policy. It is intended to ensure that it will prevent serious breaches of school discipline and prevent injury to individuals or serious damage to property.

In order to minimise the need to use force or restrain pupils at Field Place Infant School, staff will strive to:-

- create a calm environment that minimises the risk of incidents that might require using force, and apply school rules consistently and fairly.
- develop an effective relationship between staff and pupils that is central to good order.
- ensure all supervision of children is carried out in a consistent manner so children and staff are comfortable within the setting.
- use relevant materials such as the PSHE / RSE Curriculum, Zones of Regulation or, where appropriate using individual pupil advice from LBAT or the Educational Psychology Service.
- ensure all incidents where emotions have run high are de-escalated using talk, discussing strategies and removing the child/children from a place of
- potential conflict to an area of calm where pupils concerns can be heard away from bystanders.
- ensure all staff have appropriate instructions and training to enable them to be effective in their varied roles in and out of the classroom.

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- ensure that risk assessments will be put in place and training given to ensure staff are equipped to deal with individual pupils who have been identified.
- ensure that a pupil will be informed that force may have to be used before using it.

It is the head teacher's duty to ensure all staff are aware of their statutory powers to use force and or restrain a pupil. As part of the induction process into school the head teacher will inform staff who has powers to restrain and who they can turn to if they are in a situation where they need help.

The judgement on whether to use restraint and what force to use should always depend on the circumstances and situation. Time in these circumstances is often short with little time for reflection. Nevertheless, staff need to make the clearest possible judgements. Staff will need to decide the seriousness of the incident and the injury, disorder or damage that could occur if force is not used.

The chances of achieving a desired outcome by other means and the risks associated with physical intervention compared with using other strategies. Staff will have been made aware of any significant pupils such as those on the SEND or Child Protection Registers.

If a member of staff decides that the use of force is appropriate then they should always:-

- advise: giving and warning to the pupil that force may have to be used.
- suggest how the child is to be handled, ensuring that no form of restraint is used that could constrict breathing. Appropriate means are:
 - passive physical contact (from standing between pupils or blocking a child's path)
 - leading a pupil by the hand or arm, ushering a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back, or in more extreme circumstances using appropriate methods that a member of staff has been trained to perform.
- try to ensure that they do not use force unless or until another responsible adult is present to support, observe or call for assistance.

Examples of situations that particularly call for judgements of this kind include:-

- a child attacks a member of staff or other child

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- children are fighting, causing risk or injury to themselves or others
- a child is causing, or on the verge of committing, deliberate damage to property
- a child is causing or is at risk of causing injury or damage by rough play or use of an object.
- a child absconds from a class or leaves school at an unauthorised time. (This would be if the child would be putting themselves in danger or that of other children and staff.)
- a child is behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a lesson, a school event or school visit.

In these examples use of force would be reasonable (and therefore lawful) if it is clear the behaviour is dangerous and the situation could not be resolved in any other way.

Account must be taken of the nature of the child and its age and understanding of the situation.

A record sheet in the Bound Book will be completed by staff engaged in any incident where handling has taken place. The Bound Book will be kept in the SENDCo's office. Once completed, they must be passed to the Head teacher. They must be completed once the situation has been dealt with to ensure accuracy and a true and honest report.

Any injuries to staff or children must be recorded at the time.

Following any incidents where force has been appropriate the Head teacher will make arrangements to support the staff and children as these can be upsetting times.

First aid will be administered by a trained first-aider and emotional support will be provided as required.

Staff will discuss the situation within 2 days with the Head teacher to see if all procedures were followed and how we could try to avoid further repercussions, learning from the experience.

The school has a clear complaints procedure and any complaints would be received in the first instance by the Head teacher. If matters were not resolved then the complainant would take the matter to the Governing Body. Parents wishing to make a complaint will be issued with the guidance booklet detailing the procedures.

If the parent wishes to complain along the lines of abuse then the school will follow the guidance set out in Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (www.everychildmatters.gov.uk resources- and practice/ IG00175).

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There may be circumstances when physical contact is appropriate and recovery other than that covered by Section 93 of the Education Inspection Act of 2006 i.e.:-

- contact in PE demonstrating technique or exercises.
- administering first aid.
- congratulating a pupil or where a child is in distress and needs comforting
- young children and those with SEN may need staff to provide physical prompts or help.

In all these cases teachers must use their own professional judgement when they feel a pupil needs this kind of support.

This policy will be monitored by the school and governors and will be reviewed on a regular basis. The Head teacher and staff will review the schools use of force strategy following any incidents and make any relevant changes to the policy.