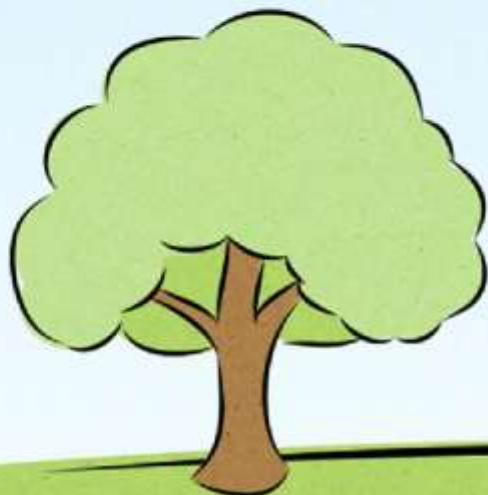




Glenfield Infant School



Restraint Policy

Revised: July 2017

Review date: July 2019

Signed: Clare Bradshaw

Date: July 2017

'Together Everyone Achieves More'

Policy concerning the use of force to control and restrain students

Rationale:

This policy is based largely on the guidance given in DfEE Circular 10/98. Section 550A of the 1996 Education Act gives teachers and other staff the power to use "*reasonable force*" to control or restrain students in certain circumstances.

It is the policy of this school, which applies to teaching, admin and technical staff, not withstanding the provisions of Section 550A, that physical force should only ever be used as a very last resort, and then only in the circumstances described in this policy.

Everyone has a right to use reasonable force to prevent an attack against themselves or others. Only teaching staff are authorised by the Principal to use physical restraint under other circumstances.

Strategies:

Reasonable force might be appropriate in the following circumstances:

- a) *Where action is necessary in self-defence.*
- b) *Where there is an imminent or developing risk of injury to the student or another person.*
- c) *Where there is a risk of significant damage to property.*

Examples of situations that fall into these categories are:

- a student attacks a member of staff, or another student;
- students are fighting;
- a student is engaged in, or is on the verge of committing, deliberate damage or vandalism to property;
- a student is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by rough play, or
- by misuse of dangerous material or objects;
- a student is running in a corridor or on a stairway in a way in which he or she might cause an accident likely to injure him or herself or others.

There is no legal definition of "*reasonable force*"; the use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of the particular incident warrants it. **The degree of force used should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.**

Before intervening physically, a member of staff should, wherever possible:

1. Tell the student who is misbehaving to stop, and what will happen if he or she does not.

2. Where possible, try to use further strategies such as diversion/distraction to calm a situation
3. Should continue attempting to communicate with the student throughout the incident.
4. Make it clear that physical contact or restraint will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary.

A calm and measured approach to a situation is needed and teachers should never give the impression that they have lost their temper, or are acting out of anger or frustration, or to punish the student.

Physical intervention can take several forms. It might involve staff:

- physically interposing between students;
- blocking a student's path;
- holding;
- pulling;

Where possible a Team Teach trained member of staff will be involved with the physical restraint. In exceptional circumstances, where there is an immediate risk of injury, a member of staff may need to take any necessary action that is consistent with the concept of "*reasonable force*", for example, to prevent a young student running off a pavement onto a busy road, or to prevent a student hitting someone, or throwing something.

In other circumstances staff should NOT act in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause injury, for example by:

- holding a student round the neck, or by the collar, or in any other way that might restrict the student's ability to breathe;
- slapping, punching or kicking a student;
- twisting or forcing limbs against a joint;
- tripping a student;
- holding or pulling a student by the hair or ear;
- holding a student face down on the ground.

Staff should always avoid touching or holding a student in a way that might be considered indecent. Students who might find physical contact particularly unwelcome because of their cultural background or personal history of abuse, will be identified via the pastoral notes.

Staff should always try to deal with a situation through other strategies before using force, e.g. removing students at risk of injury, summoning assistance from other members of staff. It should never be used as a substitute for good behaviour management.

Any incident involving the use of force by any member of staff should be immediately reported to the Headteacher by the member of staff concerned.

A Physical intervention Record form and the Bound and Numbered Book should also be completed and submitted to the Headteacher who will forward to the academy.

NB: Support from a colleague or a representative from a professional association may be helpful at this point.

Students who have been restrained are entitled to record their views when they have calmed down. Pastoral staff may need to be involved in debriefing students who have been involved witnessing an incident of restraint. The City Council will provide support and counselling for staff who wish to receive support independent of the school.

It will normally be our policy to inform parents, or those with parenting responsibilities, of any incident of this kind on the same day as the incident, preferably by telephone or in person. Parents will be encouraged to discuss on-going concerns with the Head and if necessary to use the school's complaint procedure. A positive handling plan may be completed and shared with staff and parents for any child who has had to be restrained or has the potential need to be. This is to ensure consistency of approach for the individual child by staff. This will be reviewed as necessary should circumstances change.

Police may be informed at the Principals' discretion.

Related Policies:

SEND policy

Behaviour Policy

Inclusion Leader: Clare Bradshaw

Policy reviewed: July 2017

Next review : July 2019