



Bearbrook Combined School and Pre-School

Reasonable Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils Policy

To be read with the Behaviour Management' Policy

2017 - 2020

Reviewed & Approved

Headteacher

Date: March 2017

Chair of Governors

Date: March 2017

Next Review

Date: March 2020

Reasonable Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils

Please note: The policy has been written in light of the 2010 DfE guidance for schools in England entitled 'The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils' (DCSF-00368-2010).

Situations involving decisions about whether to use force can occur in any school. Both using force and deciding not to can entail significant risks for pupils and staff. This policy is designed to minimise these risks.

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use reasonable force to prevent a pupil from:

- a) Committing a criminal offence (or for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil)
- b) Causing personal injury or damage to property
- c) Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Objectives

- To maintain the safety of pupils and staff
- To prevent serious breaches of School discipline
- To prevent serious damage to property

Minimising the need to use force

In order to minimise the occasions on which the use of force would be required, the School will:

- Create an environment that is calm and minimises the risk of incidents arising that might require the use of force
- Teach pupils how to manage conflict and strong feelings using approaches and resources from a range of sources
- Use strategies and procedures within the Behaviour Management policy to de-escalate incidents if they do arise
- Only use force when risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved in not using force
- Put in place risk assessments and positive handling plans for individual pupils.

Staff authorised to use force

Permanent authorisation is granted to all teachers and staff that have control or charge of pupils in line with the 'Team Teach' Training <http://www.teamteach.co.uk/about-team-teach> . This includes teaching staff on permanent and fixed term contracts and learning support assistants. The 'Team Teach' training is given by members of the School, and are qualified and trained instructors.

A current and up to date list of 'Team Teach' trained adults are attached to the policy (refer to Appendix 1).

Deciding whether to use force

Force should be used as a protective measure and never as a disciplinary penalty. The judgement on whether to use force and what force to use should always depend on the circumstances and information about the individual concerned.

Staff will make judgements about:

- The chance of achieving the desired result by other means
- The seriousness of the incident assessed by the effect of the injury, damage or disorder which is likely to result if force is not used
- The relative risks associated with physical intervention compared with using other strategies

Risk assessments

The leadership team will regularly assess the frequency and severity of incidents requiring use of force that are likely to occur in the School. Where it is known that force is more likely to be necessary to restrain a particular pupil (such as a pupil whose SEN and/or disability is associated with extreme behaviour) an individual risk assessment will be carried out by either the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or SENCO.

An individual risk assessment will be carried out for all pupils whose SEN and/or disability are associated with:

- Communication impairments that make them less responsive to verbal communication
- Physical disabilities and/or sensory impairments
- Conditions that make them fragile, such as haemophilia, brittle bone syndrome or epilepsy
- Dependence on equipment such as wheelchairs, breathing or feeding tubes.

Using Force

Before using force, staff should engage the pupil in a calm and measured tone, making clear that their behaviour is unacceptable and setting out how the pupil could choose to change their behaviour. Staff should not give the impression of acting out of anger or frustration, or to punish a pupil, and should make it clear that they only intend to use physical intervention as a last resort to ensure that the situation is addressed as safely as possible. The use of force must always be proportionate to the level of risk and should always be reduced at the earliest possible time.

Force may be used for two different purposes:

1. To control – either passive physical contact (e.g. standing between pupils) or active physical contact (e.g. leading the pupil by the hand or the arm)
2. To restrain using restraint techniques. This can involve using appropriate restrictive holds, which require the expertise or training given at 'Team Teach'. Parental consent is not required to restrain a pupil.

Staff Training

The staff induction process will set out staff member's responsibilities in relation to our Behaviour Management policy. Where applicable, staff will receive accredited training from 'Team Teach.' Staff who have not received accredited training are not precluded from using reasonable force where needed.

Recording Incidents

The headteacher, or in their absence, the teacher in charge in consultation with the members of staff involved in the incident, will determine whether the incident should be deemed 'significant'. This decision will consider:

- a) The pupil's behaviour and the level of risk presented at the time
- b) The degree of force used and whether it was proportionate in relation to the behaviour
- c) The effect on the pupil or member of staff
- d) The age of the child
- e) Any special educational need or disability or other social factors which might be relevant

and take account of:

- a) An incident where unreasonable use of force is used on a pupil would always be a significant incident
- b) Any incident where substantial force has been used (e.g. physically pushing a pupil out of a room) would be significant
- c) The use of a restraint technique is significant
- d) An incident where a child was very distressed (though clearly not over-reacting) would be significant.

All significant incidents where physical force has been used will be recorded on the school incident recording form – 'Behaviour Watch' - recorded under the tab 'Positive Handling'. The record must be made as soon as practical after the incident. These need to be signed off and completed by a member of the senior leadership team. All information will be treated in confidence. The record will form part of the child's educational record and is open to inspection by parents.

Reporting incidents

All significant incidents where physical force has been used will be reported to parents. The record must be made as soon as practical after the incident. If it is likely that reporting the incident to a parent will result in significant harm to the pupil, then the incident should be reported to the safeguarding team at County. The information will be treated in confidence.

Post incident support

The school will ensure that staff and pupils affected by an incident have continuing support for as long as necessary in respect of:

- Physical consequences
- Support to deal with any emotional stress or loss of confidence
- Opportunity to analyse, reflect and learn from the incident.

Complaints and allegations

Complaints will be dealt with under the School's complaints procedures. Parents and pupils have a right to complain about actions taken by staff. If a specific allegation is made against a member of staff then the School will follow guidance set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2016).

Appendix 1: List of Staff 'Team-Teach' trained

Name	Status	Period of Authorisation	Training by	Date of Training	Training expires
Marcus Faulkner	Headteacher	36 months	Team Teach	15/ 6/ 16	15/ 6/ 19
Emma Wixted	Deputy Headteacher	36 months	Team Teach	15/ 6/ 16	15/ 6/ 19
Rosie Geddert	Assistant Headteacher	36 months	Team Teach	22/ 2/ 17	22/ 2/ 20
Michael Smith	SENCO & Class teacher	36 months	Team Teach	16/ 9/ 15	16/ 9/ 18
Hannah Scrimshaw	Lead Learner/ Class teacher	36 months	Team Teach	27/ 1/ 14	27/ 1/ 17
Sam Spacagna	Senior Leader/Class teacher	36 months	Team Teach	22/2/17	22/2/20
Matt Wixted	Cover Supervisor	36 months	Team Teach	16/9/15	16/9/18