



# Shebbear College

## **Policy on the Restraint of Students**

### **Whole School Policy from EYFS to Sixth Form**

**Lasted reviewed by Governing Body – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Next Review by Governing Body by November 2019**

#### **1 Contact between Staff and Students**

##### **Physical contact**

While use of force may only be used in accordance with the policy below, there are occasions when physical contact with a pupil, other than reasonable force, is proper and necessary.

Examples of where physical contact might be proper or necessary include:

- i) administering essential first aid;
- ii) as a result of the need for medical care;
- iii) in technical coaching, e.g. of games, musical instruments;
- iv) when a pupil is being congratulated or praised, or by way of encouragement;
- v) when comforting a distressed pupil.

##### **2 Use of Reasonable Force**

According to the Education Act 1997, it accepts that there are times when reasonable force can be used to control and restrain pupils. Physical contact may also be appropriate or necessary in some circumstances.

**Corporal Punishment is not permitted under any circumstance.**

Reasonable Force is acceptable if needed to prevent a pupil from:

i) committing a criminal offence (including behaving in a way which would be an offence if the pupil were not under the age of criminal responsibility);

ii) injuring themselves or others;

iii) causing damage to property, including their own;

iv) engaging in behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline or among any of its pupils, whether in a classroom or elsewhere.

This provision applies when a teacher or other authorised person is on school premises, and when he or she has charge of the pupil concerned elsewhere e.g. on any out of school activity.

(An authorised person is anyone authorised by the Headmaster to have control of the children).

Incidents which may require reasonable force to be used fall into three categories:

i) self-defence or imminent risk of injury;

ii) a developing risk of injury or significant damage to property;

iii) behaviour compromising good order and discipline.

Circumstances in which force might be used include the following:

iv) Pupils found fighting will be physically separated;

v) Pupils who refuse to leave a room when instructed to do so may be physically removed;

vi) restraint may be used to prevent a pupil leaving a classroom where allowing him or her to do so would risk their safety or lead to disruptive behaviour;

vii) Pupils at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts will be physically restrained;

viii) using force as is reasonable in the circumstances to conduct a search of "prohibited items" (refer to the School Rules in the planner).

There is no legal definition of "reasonable force"; it depends on all the circumstances of the case. It is only reasonable if a particular incident warrants it. The degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances. Any force used should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with special educational needs or a disability.

Before intervening a teacher should, if practicable, tell the pupil to stop their behaviour and warn them what will happen if they don't.

- They should attempt to continue communicating throughout the incident and should make it clear that restraint will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary.
- A calm approach is needed; teachers should never give the impression that they have lost their temper or are acting out of anger or frustration.

There will be occasions when a teacher should not intervene without help. In those circumstances they should remove other pupils who might be at risk and summon assistance from a colleague. Whilst waiting for this the teacher should continue to try to defuse the situation orally.

Physical intervention may involve staff:

- i) physically putting themselves between pupils;
- ii) blocking a pupil's way;
- iii) holding;
- iv) pulling;
- v) pushing;
- vi) leading by the hand or arm;
- vii) shepherding a pupil by putting a hand on his or her back;
- viii)(in extreme circumstances) using more restrictive holds.

Staff should always avoid touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered indecent.

Teachers should always try other strategies before force. All need to have developed techniques for dealing with difficult situations, in order to defuse and calm.

- i) In a non-urgent situation force should only be used when all else has failed.
- ii) The possible consequences of physical intervention, such as the risk of increasing the disruption, should be carefully evaluated.
- iii) It should never be used as a substitute for good behavioural management.

**Please Note**

**Corporal punishment is illegal and may not be used under any circumstances.**

### **3 Recording of Incidents**

- i) The Headmaster has a log in which all incidents of use of force must be lodged.
- ii) You should give a detailed, written report of any occasion (except minor or trivial) where force has been used, to the Headmaster as soon as possible after the incident, certainly within the school day that it occurred.
- iii) This will help to prevent misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the incident and will be helpful should there be a complaint.
- iv) Your report should contain:
  - a) name(s) of pupil(s) involved, with form;
  - b) when and where incident occurred;
  - c) names of any pupil or staff witnesses;
  - d) reason for use of force;
  - e) how the incident started and progressed;
  - f) the outcome;
  - g) details of any injury suffered by anyone or any damage to property.
- v) It is always advisable to inform parents as soon as possible – but this should be discussed with the Headmaster or a Deputy Head (Pastoral) or in the case of the Prep School, the Headmaster of the Prep School before contact is made. They will consider how and when would be most appropriate.

EYFS: Where reasonable force / restraint is used by staff, this is recorded in writing and parents will be informed about it on the same day or as soon as reasonably practicable.

### **4 Staff Training**

Where necessary all members of staff will receive training about the use of reasonable force appropriate to their role to enable them to carry out their responsibilities. This will include training on any restraint techniques which must not be used because they are known to present an unacceptable risk when used on children and young people and training to ensure understanding of the needs of any pupils with special educational needs or disabilities.