
	<p style="text-align: center;">The Holme Church of England Primary School The Good Shepherd Trust Academies in partnership with the Guildford Diocese Education Trust The Academies Office, Larch Ave, Guildford GU1 1JY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Positive Handling (Pupil Restraint) Policy</p>	
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Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Responsible Body
September 2023	September 2024	Headteacher	The Good Shepherd Trust

At The Holme we promote positive behaviour at all time and reward our children for good behaviour. However, we recognize that at times and for a minority of children self-regulation is not always possible. At those times it may be appropriate for staff to use physical restraint.

We adhere to the statutory requirements in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 (paragraphs 111 - 114) and also follow the non-statutory guidance in Use of Reasonable Force DfE July 2013.

The decision on whether or not to use reasonable force to control or restrain a child is down to the professional judgement of the staff concerned and should always depend on individual circumstances. It may be appropriate to do so:

- to prevent children from hurting themselves or others,
- to prevent children from damaging property,
- to prevent children from causing disorder.

‘Reasonable’ in these circumstances means ‘using no more force than is needed’. The use of force may involve either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil’s path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of the classroom.

Force can never be used as a punishment - this is both unlawful and against our school ethos.

In addition to the above, the headteacher and head of school can use such force as is reasonable to conduct a search for items prohibited by the Education Act 1996.

We recognize that we have a legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and those with special educational needs.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

When Force Has Been Used

Any incidents where force has been used are recorded, with an account of what happened. The statement is signed by all adults who were involved or witnesses to the incident.

Parents are informed as soon as possible and we endeavor to have a meeting to discuss the incident and to agree steps needed to try to prevent it being necessary again.

The school is mindful that the use of force can cause distress to both the child and the adults involved. We emphasise care for everyone involved and ensure staff and children have a chance to talk about what has happened and to debrief. If needed, first aid and/or medical support is given.

The headteacher will inform the Chair of Governors after the incident and then to the whole governing body as part of the headteacher's report.

Minimising the Need to Use Force

We have the following in place in order to reduce the likelihood of any member of staff using force:

- A calm, orderly and supportive school climate.
- Strong and effective relationships between pupils and staff.
- A whole school approach to developing social and emotional skills
- An effective staff development programme that develops the skills of positive behaviour management.
- Identifying when an incident may happen.
- Using effective strategies to manage all incidents that occur.
- Informing a disruptive pupil that force may be used before using it.

School Personnel Authorised to Use Force

All school personnel whose job involves supervising pupils may use force to restrain a pupil if either the pupil is at risk of harm or if other pupils are at risk of harm. **However, this should only be in very exceptional circumstances and as a last resort.** Ideally, if circumstances allow, the Headteacher or Head of School should be called for to lead any force needed.

We believe that the use of force and what force to use must always depend on the circumstances of each incident. We acknowledge that when faced with an incident there may be very little time for school personnel to think before making a quick but effective decision.

However, school personnel must be aware of and consider the following:

- Assessing the seriousness of the incident that if force is not used then it could result in injury, damage or disorder.
- After considering alternatives for dealing with the situation, force is the only justifiable way of achieving a positive result.

- Assessing the number of risks connected with using force compared with using other strategies.

When faced with an incident and before force is used, school personnel must:

- act in a calm and measured manner;
- show no anger or frustration;
- tell the pupil to stop misbehaving or restraint will be used but will stop when the pupil behaves

School personnel may use the following types of force:

- passive physical contact by standing between pupils or by blocking a pupil's path;
- active physical contact by using restrictive holds, leading a pupil by the arm or hand or ushering a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back

School personnel must make every effort not to harm a pupil or restrain a pupil that could be interpreted as sexually inappropriate conduct.

Key school personnel must be trained in the techniques of restraint when they join the school and this training will be repeated as needed.

Types of Incident

School personnel will have to make decisions when dealing with any of the following incidents:

- Fighting - pupils fighting.
- Attack - a pupil attacks an adult or another pupil.
- Damage to property – a pupil deliberately damages property or is about to.
- Injury or damage – a pupil causes or is about to cause injury or damage.
- Absconding – when a pupil tries to leave school which could put his/her own safety at risk, the safety of others or the damage to property.
- Defying an instruction – when a pupil persistently refuses to leave a classroom.
- Disruption of lessons – when a pupil's behaviour seriously disrupts a lesson.
- Disrupting a school event – when a pupil's behaviour seriously disrupts a school event.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are in place for:

- a variety of potential incidents
- individual pupils as needed

Complaints and Allegations

All complaints will be dealt with by using the procedures as stated in the school Complaints Policy.

Raising Awareness of this Policy

- the School Handbook/Prospectus
- the school website
- the Staff Handbook
- reports such as headteacher reports to the governing body

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

Within the three year cycle the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the headteacher and any recommendations for improvement made to the LGC.

Headteacher:	Sarah Stevenson	Date:	September 2023
Chair of Local Governing Committee:	A Kemp	Date:	September 2023