



## **Physical Intervention and Use of Reasonable Force Policy**

**October 2024**

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff in school to use physical intervention to safeguard all children and young people. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involves a degree of physical contact to keep a child safe from harming themselves or others. This is the only time physical intervention should be used. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm to leave a situation for support or to extremes such as breaking up a fight. 'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed' and for no longer than the required period of time to quickly deescalate a situation. 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. Departmental advice for schools is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reducing-the-need-for-restraint-and-restrictive-intervention>

The school will not have a 'no contact' policy as this could lead to our staff being unable to fully support and protect pupils. 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. Anytime physical intervention has been required, a full debrief and written record of the situation will be recorded on our online safeguarding system and shared with the pupil, parents and necessary staff for accuracy and checking.

When using reasonable force involving children with SEN or disabilities, or with medical conditions, staff should consider the risks carefully, recognising the additional vulnerability of these groups. A risk assessment or support plan may need to be put in place if one is not already.

Consideration needs to be given to the school's duties under the Equality Act 2010 with respect of reasonable adjustments.

Next review: Autumn 2025