



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

**October 2022**

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff in school to use reasonable force to safeguard 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 control or restrain children. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a young person needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. '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. Departmental advice for schools is available at:

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

The school will not have a 'no contact' policy as this could lead our staff 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.

When using reasonable force in response to risks presented by incidents involving children including any with SEN or disabilities, or with medical conditions, staff should consider the risks carefully recognising the additional vulnerability of these groups.

Consideration needs to be given to the school's duties under the Equality Act 2010 with respect of reasonable adjustments, and also with respect of behaviour management and support.

Next review: Autumn 2024