



# The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils Policy

January 2022

## **1. Introduction**

Ladywood Primary School recognises its legal and moral duty to promote the well being of children and protect them from harm. We believe that every child, regardless of age, has at all times and in all situations the right to feel safe. We agree that we have the primary responsibility for the care of, welfare and safety of the pupils in our care.

We are committed to a positive behaviour policy, which encourages children to make positive behaviour choices. We do however; recognise that children sometimes do make the wrong choices. On rare occasions, this may result in a situation that requires some form of physical intervention by staff. Our policy for physical intervention is based upon the following principles: -

- Physical intervention should be used only as a last resort when other appropriate strategies have failed
- Any physical contact should be only the minimum required
- Physical intervention must be used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned
- Incidents must be recorded and reported to the Head teacher and Designated Lead for Safeguarding as soon as possible
- Parents will be informed of each incident

We aim to avoid the need for physical intervention and regard this as a last resort in a tiny minority of situations. We always aim to deal with behaviour using a positive approach and therefore this policy should be read in conjunction with our behaviour policy.

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate; staff will exercise their own judgement in situations which arise within the above categories. Staff will always act within the school's policy on behaviour and discipline, particularly in dealing with disruptive behaviour.

## **2. Aims of the school to minimise the use of force**

In order to reduce the possibility of force being needed the school will:

- Create a calm, orderly and supportive school climate that minimises the risk and threat of violence of any kind
- Continue to develop positive relationships between staff and pupils

- Adopt a whole school approach to developing social and emotional skills using the THRIVE approach.
- Take a structured approach to professional development that helps staff acquire the skills of positive behaviour management and managing conflict, as well as supporting each other during and after an incident
- Recognise that situations which trigger challenging behaviours are often foreseeable
- Effectively manage individual incidents, communicating calmly with the pupil, using non threatening verbal body language, ensuring the pupil can see a way out of a situation
- Use strategies that might include, going to a quiet room, away from bystanders or other pupils, so that staff involved can listen to concerns
- Wherever practicable, we will warn a pupil that force may have to be used before using it

### **3. The use of restraints**

School staff will 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 injury self or others 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 the teaching session or otherwise

#### ***The staff to which this power applies are:***

Any members of staff at the school and all KATAs, HLTAs, teachers including the head teacher and inclusion manager are Team Teach trained (20.9.19).

The power may be used where the pupil (including a pupil from another school) is on the school premises or else where in the lawful control or charge of the staff member (for example, on a school visit).

The degree of force should be the minimum needed to achieve a desired result. Use of force could not be justified to prevent trivial misbehaviour. Force will not be used as a punishment.

Wherever possible school staff will not use force unless another member of staff or responsible adult is present to support, observe and call for assistance.

***Before force is used staff will:***

- Tell the pupil to stop, and inform them of the consequences should they continue
- Warn the child that physical restraint will be used if they do not do as they are asked
- Communicate in a calm and controlled manner and will not give the impression they have lost their temper
- Attempt to send for assistance
- Send other children away if possible

***If force has to be used staff involved will:***

- Tell the pupil that they are restraining him/her to avoid the pupil harming themselves, others or property
- Use only the minimum force necessary
- Attempt to communicate with the child throughout the incident
- Be sensitive of their own strength and body weight and to issue of gender
- Inform the Head teacher if she has not been involved
- Record the incident fully on the relevant paperwork, and give a copy to the designated lead for safeguarding. Copies of incident reporting will be kept in the Safeguarding cupboard in the main school office.

***Types of force likely to be used:***

- Leading a pupil by the hand or arm
- Shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back
- Standing between pupils
- Blocking a pupil's path (only to be used if a pupil is at risk of harming themselves or others)

In more extreme circumstances, using restrictive holds (which require specific expertise or training), such holds include:

- 'Caring C' holds being used wherever practically possible
- A staff member holding a child's arm using one hand, using the other hand to support the child's shoulder or to offer themselves protection (single elbow hold)

- Two staff members holding a child's arm on both sides using one arm and then moving to a seated position (seated hold)

Each significant incident is recorded using 'Serious Incident Report' (SIR). The SIR will be completed as soon as practicable after the incident and parents will be informed. The member/s of staff involved in the incident will compile the record and ensure that the designated lead for safeguarding checks the record. All records are treated confidentially.

#### **4. Post Incident Support**

Following a significant incident any member of staff who has been involved in a 'significant incident' will receive support in a non-blaming and caring manner. They will be given the opportunity to explore thoughts and feelings during and after the incident. This time will also be used to develop and record strategy alternatives for any future significant incidents. All staff are encouraged to support, guide and reassure each other.

#### **5. Complaints and Allegations**

All complaints that the school receive will be taken seriously. All matters will be dealt with in line with the school's complaints policy. A copy is available for perusal.

#### **6. Monitoring and Reviewing**

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on a bi-annual basis, or in the event of national and local developments.

**Policy updated by: Mrs Grainger-Roystone January 2022**