



WELTON SCHOOL POLICY ON THE USE OF FORCE TO CONTROL OR RESTRAIN PUPILS



INTRODUCTION

This policy is based on guidance outlined in Circular 10/98 – ‘The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils’. The Circular refers to the 1996 and 1997 Education Acts which clarify the position regarding the use of physical force by teachers and other staff working in schools, to control or restrain pupils. Staff should also refer to the whole school positive behaviour policy on behaviour and discipline.

PART I

At Welton School we believe that the use of reasonable force is only necessary to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing a criminal offence
- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property, including their own
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in the classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere.

A member of the Senior Leadership Team will normally be present when a situation arises requiring restraint and members of staff should make every effort to ensure SLT member presence has been requested.

In an emergency all **teachers** are empowered to restrain.

The use of restraint should always be a last resort. If practical before intervention, a calm warning or instruction to stop should be given and every effort should be made to achieve a satisfactory outcome without physical intervention.

In all circumstances help must be sent for, even when immediate intervention is necessary.

Restraint can take a variety of forms – many of which are outlined in Circular 10/98 and in the County Guidelines referred to above. Staff should always avoid touching/holding a pupil in a way that might be considered inappropriate.

Force, where used, should always be reasonable. There is no definition of ‘reasonable force’ it should always be proportional to the circumstances of the incident. It should be used only to control or restrain and never with the intent to cause pain or harm. It must, therefore, be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result. In any action, due regard has to be taken to the age, understanding and sex of the pupil.

The school accepts and understands that in accordance with the law corporal punishment is forbidden.

PART II

Where restraint has been necessary, the incident must be reported to a senior colleague and logged. A report should be written and filed using the forms which can be obtained from the Head teacher.

In the event of an injury occurring, the appropriate H/S61 or HSW5 must be completed and the accident reporting procedures must be followed. Parents of the pupils involved will always be advised of an incident and it may be necessary for it to be followed up by other disciplinary action or pastoral support.

Appropriate members of staff will be provided by with training on the use of restraint and will be expected thereafter to arrange guidance for all other staff members both teaching and non teaching.

All parents must be made aware this policy. All new members of staff and part time staff will be expected to read this policy.