



Statutory/Non Statutory Policy

on

Use of reasonable force

Drafted by:

Mrs S Kadri

Date of Approval by Governing Body:

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Signed by Chair of Governors:

Review date:

May 2022

Person(s) Responsible for Day to Day Management:

Mrs S Kadri

Person Responsible for Review:

Mrs S Kadri

AIMS OF THE POLICY

The aims of this reasonable force policy are to:

- Provide clarification on the use of reasonable force in school;
- Enable staff to feel more informed and confident about the use of reasonable force when they believe it to be necessary;
- make clear the responsibilities of the Headteacher, senior staff and governing bodies in respect of this power.

This policy is drawn from advice contained in the document 'Use of Reasonable Force – Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies' issued 2013 by the Department for Education (DFE) and the DFE Keeping Children Safe in Education

Use of reasonable force

- Staff at the school have a legal power to use 'reasonable force.' The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with students. 'Reasonable' means using no more force than is necessary. Force is usually used to control or restrain a student.
- Reasonable force may be used by staff to prevent students from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.
- Control means either passive physical contact such as standing between two students or active physical contact such as leading a student to safety by the arm. Restraint means to hold back a student physically or to bring a student under control, for example in extreme situations when two students are fighting and need to be separated.
- Staff at the school may use reasonable force in circumstances such as:
 - Guiding a student to safety
 - Breaking up a fight or to prevent a student from attacking a member of staff.
 - Removing a disruptive student from the classroom where they pose a risk to other students.
 - Preventing a student from behaving in a way that disrupts a school event, trip or visit.
 - Preventing a student from leaving the classroom where allowing the student to leave, would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others.
 - Restraining a student at risk of harming themselves or others through physical outbursts.
- The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances. There is a legal duty for staff to make reasonable adjustments for disabled students and students with SEN.
- Staff must record all incidents that involve the use of 'reasonable force,' logging the incident in SIMS behaviour management. The incident must also be brought to the attention of the Senior Deputy Headteacher and the Headteacher.

- Following an incident where reasonable force has been used the student will be assessed by the First Aid practitioner in school. If injuries result from the application of reasonable force, medical help should be sought straight away. It is also important to ensure that staff and students are offered emotional support; · As soon as possible after the incident, parents / carers should be informed. When assessing the incident, consideration may be given to involving multi-agency partners to offer support or advice. Where a student is responsible for injury to another, as well as holding him/her to account and issuing appropriate sanctions, the student will be given the opportunity to repair the relationship(s) with students and staff affected by the incident. The student will be offered appropriate support to help develop strategies for avoiding such crisis points in future.