

North Stainley CE School Use Of Force Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In schools we have become used to and skilled at defusing situations without the use of force. The law has now been clarified concerning the powers of teachers to use force in exceptional circumstances. The DfEE circular on this subject is not intended to authorise the use of corporal punishment nor to encourage the use of inappropriate force. Staff are expected to continue to use the support mechanisms available to defuse difficult situations.
- 1.2 It is the policy of the school that only in exceptional circumstances may physical restraint be used on a pupil by any adult working on behalf of the school, and that our policy in this regard will be made known to staff, governors and parents.

2 Policy into Practice

- 2.1 It is accepted that there are situations where it is necessary to physically assist a pupil in the course of work. Examples of this would be:- in PE a teacher assisting a pupil who is doing a difficult manoeuvre, in fastening seat belts or picking up a small child who has fallen and hurt themselves. Even so any such actions should be done carefully to avoid any misunderstanding.
- 2.2 Our policy allows for the physical restraint of pupils in disciplinary or dangerous situations. This does not include any form of corporal punishment and is limited to the minimum force absolutely necessary to prevent injury to the pupil or any other pupil or member of staff, to prevent a pupil causing damage to property or behaving in a manner which is severely disruptive of pupils' work, or to prevent a pupil committing a crime.
- 2.3 The Headteacher will indicate which staff have authority to use limited physical force on pupils in situations which require it. In this school these are:
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Mrs. E Watts | Mrs. C. Gray |
| Mrs. L Ingham | Mrs. A Mansfield |
| Mrs. J. Thomson | Miss S Williamson |
| Ms M. Wilson | Mrs J Macarthur |
- 2.4 Where a pupil is recognised as likely to behave in ways which may require physical restraint, then an individual plan will be prepared on the action to be taken when it becomes necessary.
- 2.5 Any force used will always be the minimum needed to address the situation and will always be the last resort. The force used will be appropriate in the sense that a "reasonable adult" would think it a proportionate or suitable response in the circumstances. In no circumstances will force be used in anger or to inflict pain.

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3 In Practice

- 3.1 If physical force is used on a pupil the Head must be notified at once. The name of the pupil will then be recorded in the appropriate school document, along with the time, circumstances, witnesses, details of any injury sustained and the pupil's response.
- 3.2 Wherever possible the parents will be notified before the pupil gets home and be given the opportunity to discuss the incident.
- 3.3 The Head may judge it appropriate to inform the professional representative (LEA, Unions) of such an event.
- 3.4 The Head decides whether the police should be called.
- 3.5 In the event of a complaint the normal complaints procedures of the school will be used.

4 TRAINING ISSUES

- 4.1 All newly appointed staff will be made aware, as part of their induction, of the professional response that is expected in the school in relation to behaviour of pupils.
- 4.2 Copies of the policy will be issued on commencement of employment.

Signed:

Date:

Review date: