

Physical Restraint and Use of Reasonable Force Policy

St John's College School fully recognises the responsibility it has under section 157 of the Education Act 2002 to have arrangements in

When can Reasonable Force NOT be used?

Reasonable force can never be used as a form of punishment.

Guidelines for the Use of Physical Restraint

Do:

- Summon help immediately. A pupil can be sent to get another adult.
- Ensure a free passage of air through airways
- Be aware of any feelings of anger
- Continue to talk to the pupil in a calm way
- Provide a soft surface if possible
- Be aware of any accessories worn by you or the pupil that could cause injury
- Monitor the pupil's respiration, circulation and state of consciousness

Don't:

- Try to manage on your own
- Stop talking, even if the pupil does not reply
- Straddle the pupil
- Push their arms up their back
- Touch the pupil near the throat or head
- Put pressure on joints or on arterial pressure points (inside of upper arm, groin, neck)
- Use facedown holds

Recording incidents

Minor or everyday use of reasonable force does not need to be recorded. For example, young children running off in the playground and being guided back to the line by the teacher or assistant. All more serious incidents involving the use of physical restraint must be reported to the Deputy Head or Head of the Junior Department as soon as possible after the incident. These must be recorded on 3Sys using the reason of Physical Restraint

Telling parents when force has been used on their child

Staff need to use their professional judgement on whether to inform parents depending on the seriousness of the incident.

In a serious incident where a member of staff has had to physically restrain a pupil, the parent will be informed on the day and the conversation must be followed up in writing to the parent.

What happens if a pupil complains when force is used on them?

All complaints about the use of force should be thoroughly, speedily and appropriately investigated. Where a member of staff has acted within the law, that is, they have used reasonable force in order to prevent injury, damage to property or disorder, this will provide a defence to any criminal prosecution or other civil or public law action.

When a complaint is made the onus is on the person making the complaint to prove that his/her allegations are true. It is not for the member of staff to show that he/she has acted reasonably.

If an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff, the process set out in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will be followed.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead, Prevent Strategy Lead and Online Safety Lead is:
Lisa Bedford, Assistant Head (Pastor) (01223 272718)

The EYFS Designated Safeguarding Lead and Domestic Abuse Lead is:
Althea Pipe, Senior Deputy Head and Head of the Junior Department (01223, 272729)

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is:
Steve Glitherow, Housemaster (01223448760) and Althea Pipe, Senior Deputy Head and Head of the Junior Department (01223, 272729)