



## Restraint Policy / Holding- Use of Reasonable Force in Schools

**Date Policy Agreed: 06/12/2018**

**Date of Policy Review: 05/12/2019**

Holy Trinity's policy is put together in line with the DfE 'Use **of reasonable force: Advice for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies**' **DfE guidance 2013**.

School staff have a legal power to use force. Lawful use of power will provide a defence to criminal prosecution or other legal action.

Reasonable force- '**means no more force than is needed. Reasonable force can be used to prevent students from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property or from causing disorder. It means as last resort, minimum force and minimum restraint for the minimum amount of time**'

Examples when staff might deem it appropriate to use reasonable force include:

- Prevent a pupil from leaving the classroom where allowing them to do so would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that may jeopardise the safety of others
- Prevent a pupil from attacking another student, member of staff, or stop a fight in the playground
- Restrain a pupil at risk from harming themselves through physical outbursts
- Stop students from damaging property where failure to do so may jeopardise the safety of the child, other children or staff
- Restrain a child during an offsite educational visit if any of the above principles apply

It is advisable where possible to explain to the child why the force (hold) is being used (usually to protect themselves or others).

Force should never be used as a punishment. It is **always unlawful** to use force as a punishment.

Holy Trinity will apply restraint in line with the principles and processes as outlined by The Positive Handling Academy. The school has a lead trainer in Positive Handling and a team of trained staff. Regular training sessions will be held throughout the year to ensure that all staff training is regularly updated. A team of trained staff can be found in Appendix A.

A record of any intervention should be made of what happened, including response and actions as a result of the incident. Records should be completed as soon as possible after

the event and be factual and detailed. It is advisable to inform parents and to allow them an opportunity to discuss this (unless by doing so this may put the child at increased risk). Contact will be made by a member of SLT. Records should contain the following information:

- Name of pupils involved
- When and where the incident took place
- Why the force used was deemed necessary
- Details of the incident, including all steps taken to diffuse the situation and resolve it without force and the nature of the force used
- The student's response
- The outcome of the incident
- A description of the incident
- A description of any injuries suffered as a result by the student and / or others and or property damaged during the incident.

It is recognised that on occasion staff may need to 'guide' rather than restrain students. It is important that staff report and record all instances of this nature, even when restraint has not been applied.

Holy Trinity Catholic School acknowledges that any incident where a student has been restrained can be upsetting for both staff and students and will seek to support all involved.

Parents should be kept informed that the school has a policy in relation to Restraint and holding of students. This policy is available on the school website.

This policy will be reviewed regularly by the link Governor for Safeguarding.

**Appendix A- list of staff trained in Positive Handling:**

T Oulton-Doris - Head of Year 11 (Positive Handling Trainer)

S. Mahmood - Head of Year 9

Sarah Smith - Head of Year 8

Ann Grimmit - BSU Manager

Nadia Ross - TA