



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

Ratified by Governors – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Date of Policy Review: Dec 2025

Holy Trinity's policy is put together in line with the DfE 'Use **of reasonable force: Advice for Head teachers, 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
- Apply the positive handling and restraint policy a child during an offsite educational visit if any of the above principles apply
- Prevent a pupil from committing an offence which may harm themselves, others or property
- Prevent a pupils from causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself)
- Prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise when it is deemed that there is a risk of harm to self, other children, staff or property

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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.

*It is inadvisable that force be used to remove a child from a classroom because a pupil is failing to follow instructions. In this rare event one of the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Lead for Positive Handling, AHT Personal Development and Behaviour lead must be contacted if there is a concern which is a behaviour concern but is not a risk of harm to self or others. In the event that there is a risk to self, others or property and this meets the threshold for positive handling to be applied, then policy is to be applied as per definitions above.*

***A reminder that the first intervention for any concern should always be an attempt to de-escalate. Physical intervention should always be a last resort and in line with the principles of necessary and proportionate force for the least amount of time***

Physical force should only be used for its lawful purpose and not for:

- Revenge;
- Retaliation;
- Retribution;
- Teaching someone a lesson;
- Making someone comply with an instruction;
- As 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. *(Currently under Review – pending).*

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.
- Was the force used necessary (or believed to be necessary) to prevent the harm from occurring?
- Was the force used proportionate to the harm to be avoided?

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 – Student development Leader and Positive Handling Trainer

J Daw – Deputy Headteacher - Safeguarding

S Mahmood – Behaviour Lead

A Backhouse – Behaviour Lead and Careers

S Smith – Head of Year 11

S Elia – Head of Year 8

L Chan – Head of Year 9

Tom Woolgar- Associate Assistant Head Teacher

Sahra Hayle- Head of Year 7

Marie White – Head of Year 9

Vanessa Hodson (Associate Deputy Head Teacher)

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