

Policy Title:	Care and Control Policy	
Date of Issue:	Spring Term 2022	
Date of Review:	Summer Term 2023	
Author & Role	Karen Wells- Deputy Headteacher	
Ratified by:	Governors Policy Committee	
Responsible signatory:	Chair A Blundell	Vice Chair W Blundell
Date:	29.03.2022	
Amendments / Comments	unchanged	
Outcome:	<p>This Policy:</p> <p>The policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils and for volunteers working within the school to explain the school's arrangements for care and control. Its contents are available to parents and pupils. A copy of the School's Behaviour Policy is made to parents via the school website. The policy includes information on the use of reasonable force to control or restrain pupils.</p>	
Cross Reference:	Behaviour Policy Health and Safety Policy	

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Astley Park School is committed to the fair treatment of all in line with the Equality Act 2010. An equality impact assessment has been completed on this policy to ensure that it can be implemented consistently regardless of any protected characteristics and all will be treated with dignity and respect.

POLICY REVIEW

To ensure that this policy is relevant and up to date, comments and suggestions for additions or amendments are sought from users of this document. To contribute towards the process of review, please contact the author of the policy.

Care and Control Policy

CARE AND CONTROL POLICY (incorporating Restrictive Physical interventions)

‘The use of Positive Handling to manage challenging behaviour.’

Introduction

This revised policy has been prepared as a result of the annual review of the existing Care and Control policy and in light of changes introduced by the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The responsible person for the implementation of the policy is the Deputy Headteacher, who is a Team Teach Tutor. This policy will be reviewed by the Head Teacher and the Governing Body.

The policy has been developed in response to The Education and Inspections Act 2006 section 93 which reinforces, supercedes and replaces previous guidance. It also takes cognisance of joint guidance issued by the DfES and DOH and follows the guidance for ‘The Use of Reasonable Force to Control or Restrain Pupils’.

The policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies and guidance relating to interaction between adults and pupils.

The policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils and for volunteers working within the school to explain the school's arrangements for care and control. Its contents are available to parents and pupils. A copy of the School's Behaviour Policy is made to parents via the school website. The policy includes information on the use of reasonable force to control or restrain pupils.

Objectives

Good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure good order in our school. It is recognised that the majority of pupils in our school respond positively to the discipline and control practised by staff. This ensures the well-being and safety of all pupils and staff in school. It is also acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, staff may need to take action in situations where the use of reasonable,

proportionate and necessary force may be required. Astley Park School acknowledges that physical techniques are only a small part of a whole school approach to behaviour support.

Every effort will be made to ensure that all staff in this school:

- (i) Clearly understand this policy and their responsibilities in the context of their duty of care in taking appropriate measures where use of force is necessary and
- (ii) Are provided with appropriate training to deal with these difficult situations.

Minimising the need to use force

At Astley Park School we constantly strive to create a calm environment that minimises the risk of incidents arising that might require the use of an intervention. In addition to this, pupils who regularly present with challenging behaviour have an individual Learner Support Plan and where necessary a Positive Handling Plan.

The school also uses the ALERT Programme for pupils who have issues relating to sensory dysfunction or other conditions that may result in increased anxiety levels, and therefore an increase in the likelihood of challenging behaviour. Pupils may have individualised support or a programme to help encourage them to accept mutual regulation or self-regulate.

The school uses a variety of approaches as appropriate to help pupils to learn about feelings and managing conflict, where this is appropriate to their level of development. The school curriculum and ethos promote independence, choice and inclusion and pupils are given maximum opportunity for personal growth and emotional wellbeing.

All staff are trained in skills to help them to defuse situations before behaviour becomes challenging and how to de-escalate incidents should they arise.

Reasonable force will only be used when the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved in not using force.

Implications of the policy.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 stipulates that reasonable force may be used to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do any of the following:

- self – injuring
- causing injury to others
- committing a criminal offence
- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether the behaviour occurs in a classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere within school (this includes authorised out-of-school activities).

As teaching and non-teaching staff work ‘in loco parentis’ and have a ‘Duty of Care’ towards their pupils, they could be liable for a claim of negligence if they fail to follow the guidance within this policy. The use of Team Teach techniques is one of our control methods for reducing risks presented by children’s challenging behaviour. Pupils’ Learner Support Plans are Safe Systems of Work under Health and Safety Regulations. As such it is imperative that these plans are followed and implemented by all members of staff.

The application of any form of physical control inevitably carries an attached risk of unintended harm and this places staff and the school at risk of potential litigation. It can only be justified according to the circumstances described in this policy. Staff, therefore, have a responsibility to follow this policy and to seek alternative strategies wherever possible in order to prevent the need for physical intervention. Staff need to be aware that they are responsible for:

- assessing risks (dynamic risk assessment) related to individual circumstances which may arise in the course of their day-to-day duties and
- making judgements about when the use of force is necessary and the degree of force which may be regarded as necessary to manage a situation.

Staff need to be aware that they are required to justify their decisions in writing through the recording and reporting procedures outlined later in this document.

The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 effective from September 2007, gives schools powers to screen or search pupils for weapons. At Astley Park School it is unlikely that pupils would conceal weapons, however staff maybe requested to undertake searches. The

power to search should only be used where it is judged to be safe, if the School decides that a search may be unsafe then the police would be called.

Definitions of Positive Handling.

Positive Handling describes a broad spectrum of risk reduction strategies. Positive handling is a holistic approach involving policy, guidance, management of the environment, and deployment of staff. It also involves personal behaviour, diversion, defusion, and de-escalation. Positive Handling Plans, at Astley Park are a plan for the positive support of pupils' challenging behaviour. They are based on a risk assessment and identify positive prevention strategies and how a pupil may need to be supported in a crisis.

1. Physical Contact

Situations in which proper physical contact occurs between staff and pupils, e.g., in the care of pupils and in order to support their access to a broad and balanced curriculum. It would seem reasonable that young children do require opportunities for close contact such as cuddles/hugs and as long as this is within public view, sensitively carried out and age/person-appropriate the Governors would fully support this approach.

2. Physical Intervention (PI)

This may be used to divert a pupil from a destructive or disruptive action, for example guiding or leading a pupil by the arm where the pupil is compliant.

This technique cannot be emphasised enough and in the hands of a skilful practitioner many pupils can be deflected from a potentially volatile situation into a less confrontational situation i.e. it may be possible to “defuse” a situation by a timely intervention.

3. Physical Control/Restraint/Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI)

This will involve the use of reasonable force when there is an immediate risk to pupils, staff or property. **All such incidents must be recorded electronically** on the RF1 form and attached to a critical incident on CPOMS alerting the SEND Support Manager. If anyone is injured an accident/incident report must also be completed on CPOMS. Incidents must be

sent to the Pupil Support Manager as soon as possible, and by the end of the school day at the latest.

4. Mechanical Restraint

‘The use of a device to prevent, restrict or subdue movement of a persons body, or part of the body, for the primary purpose of behavioural control.’

At Astley Park School, following guidance from the CareQuality Commission, we recognise that the use of mechanical restraint may be considered in some cases as the least restrictive intervention to keep a pupil safe. There may be occasions for example when accessing the community, that pupils may need additional support to keep them safe due to unpredictable behaviour. In this instance, specialist walking harnesses or pupil’s own wheelchairs/ buggies will be used. This will always be agreed with parents and based on an individual pupil risk assessment.

The level of compliance from the pupil determines whether or not the interaction is an intervention or a control/restraint/RPI. Restraint is defined by Team Teach as the positive application of force by staff, in order to overcome rigorous resistance; completely directing, deciding and controlling a person’s free movement.

Seclusion, time out and withdrawal

Seclusion: where an adult or child is forced to spend time alone against their will in a locked room or room which they cannot leave.

Time out: This involves restricting the service user’s access to positive reinforcements as part of the behavioural programme in a room or area which they may freely leave. It is a specific behaviour management technique and does not necessarily literally mean time spent out of the class/group, but rather refers to a withdrawal of attention and/or things they find rewarding (it could be as simple as turning away from a child who is attention seeking, or positioning a child away from the class/group). This withdrawal of attention could also be achieved by sending a pupil to another class/group or a quiet area.

Withdrawal: which involves removing the person from a situation which causes anxiety or distress to a location where they can be continuously observed and supported until they are

ready to resume their usual activities. This can mean removing a child from the class/group to allow them time to calm down or to prevent a situation from escalating. They may need time away from staff and pupils (either on their own or in another class/group) in order to break the cycle/pattern of their behaviour or to reduce their level of anxiety/distress. This “quiet time” could be time in the playground, a quiet room or a safe space e.g. the blue room. Where a pupil uses the safe space and the door is closed then this must be recorded on a Withdrawal Support form and the pupil’s behaviour/response documented every 3 minutes until the door is opened or a member of staff enters the safe space.

This temporary restriction to the safe space area will be continually monitored by a member of staff, it is a risk assessed, personalised and structured (reported, recorded and reviewed) strategy, an action documented as in the child’s best interests, with the aim of preventing the risk of harm. This would include the risk of physical or psychological harm and the risk of harm to a safe environment.

Planned and emergency physical interventions

A **planned intervention** is one that is described/outlined in the pupil’s Positive Handling Plan. This should cover most interventions, as possible scenarios will be identified and planned for when the Positive Handling Plan is drawn up. These interventions may include the use of Team Teach techniques.

An **emergency physical intervention** may be necessary if a situation arises that was not foreseen or is uncharacteristic of the pupil. Members of staff retain their duty of care to pupils and any response, even in an emergency, must be proportionate to the circumstances. Staff should use the minimum force necessary to prevent injury and maintain safety, consistent with the training that they have received. Following any such incident, a Positive Handling Plan will be devised (or the existing plan updated) to support effective responses to any such situations which may arise in the future.

Wherever possible assistance will be sought from another member of staff.

Positive Handling at Astley Park School (defined as the full range of strategies used to manage behaviour including where necessary physical intervention) is seen as a proactive response to meet individual pupil needs and any such measures will be most effective in

the context of the overall ethos of the school, the way that staff exercise their responsibilities and the range of behaviour management strategies used.

Underpinning values

Everyone attending or working in this school has a right to:

- recognition of their unique identity;
- be treated with respect and dignity;
- learn and work in a safe environment;
- be protected from harm, violence, assault and acts of verbal abuse.

Pupils attending this school and their parents have a right to:

- individual consideration of pupil needs by the staff who have responsibility for their care and protection;
- expect staff to undertake their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the school's policies;
- be informed about school rules, relevant policies and the expected conduct of all pupils and staff working in school;
- expect Positive Handling Plans to be designed to achieve outcomes that reflect the best interests of the child whose behaviour is of immediate concern and others affected by the behaviour requiring intervention;
- be informed about the school's complaints procedure.

The school will ensure that pupils understand the need for and respond to clearly defined limits, which govern behaviour in the school.

Prevention

Primary Prevention

This is achieved by:-

- The deployment of appropriate staffing numbers;
- The deployment of appropriately trained and competent staff;
- Avoiding situations and triggers known to provoke challenging behaviour;
- Creating opportunities for choice and achievement;
- Developing staff expertise through a programme of Continuous Professional Development;
- Exploring pupils' preferences relating to the way/s in which they are managed.

Secondary Prevention

This involves the recognition of the early stages of a behavioural sequence that is likely to develop into violence or aggression and employing 'defusion' techniques to avert any further escalation.

Where there is clear documented evidence that particular sequences of behaviour escalate rapidly into violence, the use of a restrictive physical intervention (RPI) at an early stage in the sequence may, potentially, be justified if it is clear that:

- Primary prevention has not been effective, and
- The risks associated with **NOT** using a RPI are greater than the risks of using a RPI, and
- Other appropriate methods, which do not involve RPI, have been tried without success.

Judgements

It may be necessary to make a judgement about the relative risks and potential benefits arising from activities which might provoke challenging behaviours compared with the impact on the pupil's overall quality of life if such activities are not allowed.

Deciding whether to use Restrictive Physical Interventions and Risk Assessment

Both challenging behaviour and restrictive physical interventions will involve a risk – to both staff and pupils. A risk assessment aims to balance these risks. The aim of the individual pupil's Learner Support Plan and of this policy is to reduce the risks associated with pupils' challenging behaviour as far as is reasonably practicable – the risks that are associated with the behaviour itself and the risk of managing that behaviour. The risks of employing an intervention should be lower than the risks of not doing so.

Pupils whose challenging behaviour may pose a risk to staff or pupils will be the subject of a Risk Assessment and will have a Positive Handling Plan drawn up as a result of this. These will be shared with all staff and stored on the staff drive.

All staff authorised to use physical intervention with pupils receive training in Team Teach techniques and receive information about the risk to pupils of positional asphyxia. There are very clear protocols delivered during training to minimise the possibility of this and to ensure that appropriate safeguards are implemented.

Health and Safety of Staff

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act, employees have a responsibility to report any circumstances which give rise to an increased risk to their Health and Safety.

Staff who have, or acquire, permanently or temporarily, any medical condition that may impact on their ability to carry out pupils' Positive Handling Plans have a duty to report these to the Headteacher immediately as there may be an impact on their own safety and that of colleagues and/or pupils.

Using Force

No legal definition of reasonable force exists however for the purpose of this policy and the implementation of it in Astley Park School:

- Positive Handling uses the **minimum** degree of force necessary for the **shortest period of time** to prevent a pupil harming himself, herself, others or property.
- The scale and nature of any physical intervention must be **proportionate** to both the behaviour of the individual to be controlled, and the nature of the harm they might cause.
- Staff would be expected to follow the pupil's Learner Support Plan in the first instance to manage an incident/challenging behaviour
- If this was unsuccessful and the situation continues to escalate staff would then be expected to employ other Team Teach techniques that they have been trained.
- Only if all of the above have been tried and are unsuccessful should staff even consider any other form of restraint. The overriding consideration should still be the reasonableness and proportionality of the force used.

All the techniques used take account of a young person's;

- age
- gender
- level of physical, emotional and intellectual development
- special needs
- social context

They also provide a gradual, graded system of response.

Where behavioural records and/or risk assessment identifies a need for a planned approach, Positive Handling Plans are written for individual children and where possible, these will be designed through multi agency collaboration and, with parental consent,

shared with other agencies/services supporting the child to facilitate consistency of approach so far as is possible.

Staff Training

Training at some level will be available for **all** staff at Astley Park. For most staff this is enhanced by Team Teach training in the use of positive handling and it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure this training is kept up to date. No member of staff will be expected to use Team Teach techniques without appropriate training. However in an emergency situation staff will be expected to support a pupil under the direction of a trained member of staff, until a further trained member of staff is available. Prior to the provision of training, guidance will be given on action to be taken. Arrangements will be made clear as part of the induction of staff and training will be provided as part of on-going staff development.

Lancashire Children's Services Authority (CSA) and Astley Park School is committed to using Team Teach. Team Teach Ltd is a training provider that is accredited through the ICM) Institute of Conflict Management) and adheres to their Code of Practice on physical intervention. Astley Park School acknowledges that physical techniques are only a part of a whole setting approach to behaviour support.

All school staff working directly with pupils receive the 12-hour Basic Course in Team Teach as the school is considered to be a medium risk setting. This is in line with County guidance and Team Teach policy. This level of training is required for most staff as they are expected to be able to actively support each other, and pupils, if an incident occurs and a child needs physical intervention to keep themselves and/or others safe.

There are some staff who work on a part-time basis or who have physical difficulties that mean they would be less likely to be as physically involved in an incident and would play a supporting role rather than being physically involved. If the child was already agitated they would not be working with them without school staff also being present.

Support Following Incidents

Physical techniques are not used in isolation and the school is committed to ensuring that as a result of incidents learning opportunities are created for children that allow them to 'own' and take responsibility for their behaviour at a level appropriate to their stage of development.

Whilst the physical techniques are intended to reduce risk, there is always risk when two or more people engage to use force to protect, release or restrain. Team Teach techniques seek to avoid injury to the service user, but it is possible that bruising or scratching may occur accidentally, and these are not to be seen necessarily as a failure of professional technique, but a regrettable and infrequent side effect of ensuring that the service user remains safe. Any such injury will be reported using CPOMS. Any injuries to pupils as a result of incidents involving restraint will be reported in line using CPOMS and also with locally agreed LADO procedures.

In addition procedures are in place to ensure that appropriate support is provided for staff and that following an incident pupil/staff relationships are rebuilt and repaired to ensure that a positive learning environment is maintained.

Visits out of school

Our equal opportunities policy states that all pupils should be included in all curriculum activities. However, Health and Safety remains a priority and staff should carry out risk assessments for each pupil prior to each visit into the community. Due consideration should be given to the following:

- Is the pupil able to cope with the demands of the proposed visit?
- Are there sufficient, suitably trained staff - particularly if there should be an incident?
- How will you contact school to get extra help if necessary and how will you get back?

Authorised staff

All teachers and staff the Headteacher has authorised to have control or charge of pupils automatically have the statutory power to use reasonable force within the context of The

Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the subsequent guidance 'The Use of Reasonable Force to Control and Restrain Pupils'.

Supply staff must ensure that they are familiar with this school's policy. Appropriate guidance will be given if they have not undertaken Team Teach training.

The school provides training for all authorised staff and the Deputy Headteacher retains a list of all those staff trained and authorised. The list is reviewed on an annual basis.

Authorisation is not given to volunteers, students on placement, visitors or parents as they will not have control of pupils who may present with challenging behaviour, but will be supervised at all times.

The Headteacher is responsible for making clear to whom such authorisation has been given, in what circumstances and settings they may use force and for what duration of time this authorisation will last. The Headteacher will ensure that those authorised are aware of, and understand, what the authorisation entails.

Those whom the Headteacher has not authorised will be told what steps to take in the case of an incident where control or restraint is needed. All staff will receive training in Managing Behaviour as part of their Induction Training and there is a walkie-talkie system in school for calling for assistance as well as the "staff help" protocol.

*All members of staff are reminded that all pupils who regularly display challenging behaviour will have a Learner Support Plan, which should be strictly adhered to. These plans are reviewed regularly and all staff are encouraged to make a contribution to the plans. **Any pupil who requires a Positive Handling Plan must also complete a formal risk assessment to inform the planning.** A pupil's Learner Support Plan constitutes a Safe System of Work under Health and Safety Regulations. If any member of staff believes that a Learner Support Plan is no longer effective/suitable for any reason they **MUST** discuss this with the Pupil Support Manager **BEFORE** making any adjustments to it.*

Strategies for dealing with challenging behaviour

As endorsed in the school's Behaviour Policy, staff utilise consistent positive strategies to encourage acceptable behaviour and good order.

Every effort will be made to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to pupils or staff, property, buildings or the environment. Where unacceptable behaviour threatens good order and discipline and provokes intervention, some or all of the following approaches should be taken according to the circumstances of the incident and in association with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 Section 93

- **Verbal supported by (sign or symbol)** acknowledgement of unacceptable behaviour with request for the pupil to refrain; (this includes negotiation, care and concern)
- **Implementation of planned de-escalation techniques as appropriate to the pupil**
- Warning of intention to intervene physically and that this will cease when the pupil complies, if possible summon assistance from other staff – use “staff help” protocol or walkie talkies
- Physical intervention. Reasonable force being used to prevent a child harming him or herself, others or property.

Types of Incident

The incidents described in The Education and Inspections Act 2006 The Use of Reasonable Force to Control and Restrain Pupils fall into three broad categories: -

- Where action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury.
- Where there is a developing risk of injury, or significant damage to property.
- Where a pupil is behaving in a way that is compromising good order or discipline.

Examples of situations which fall within one of the first two categories, are:

- A pupil attacks a member of staff, or another pupil;
- Pupils are fighting;
- A pupil is engaged in, or is on the verge of committing, deliberate damage or vandalism to property;

- A pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects;
- A pupil is running in a corridor or on a stairway in a way which he or she might have or cause an accident likely to injure him or herself or others;
- A pupil absconds from a class or tries to leave school (NB this will only apply if a pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or at school).

Examples of situations which fall into the third category are:

- A pupil persistently refuses to obey a request to leave a classroom;
- A pupil is behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting a lesson.

Acceptable measures of physical intervention (PI)

The use of Team Teach PI techniques can only be deemed reasonable if:

- it is warranted by the particular circumstances of the incident;
- it is delivered in accordance with the seriousness of the incident and the consequences which it is desired to prevent;
- it is carried out as the minimum needed to achieve the desired result;
- the age, understanding and gender of the pupil are taken into account;
- it is likely to achieve the desired result.

Wherever possible assistance should be sought from another member of staff before intervening.

This form of physical intervention may involve staff:

- escorting a pupil;
- shepherding a pupil away;
- supportively holding a pupil to keep them or others safe until they have regained control of themselves or can be supported to an area to calm down.

In some circumstances, trained staff may need to use more restrictive holds - Team Teach RPI techniques. Acceptable methods are taught as part of the training procedures made available to appropriate staff.

Any such measures will be most effective in the context of the overall positive and caring ethos of the school, the way in which staff exercise their responsibilities and the behaviour management strategies used. Staff may need to rotate roles and have a break if the incident is prolonged (over 10 minutes) – you should follow the pupil's Learner Support Plan and Positive Handling Plan; at all times acting in the best interests of the child.

- It is acknowledged that with some disengagement techniques pupils may encounter some minimal discomfort when appropriate release techniques are used. However, this is very brief, transient and poses less of a risk than the behaviour they are employed in response to, eg biting.
- The majority of staff are trained in First Aid and may be called upon to implement First Aid or seek further guidance in the event of an injury or physical distress arising as a result of a physical intervention

Recording incidents

Where physical control or restraint has been used a record of the incident will be kept. This record should be made online using CPOMS and the SEND Support Manager alerted.

Appropriate documentation (RF1) will be completed electronically as soon as possible after the incident, (within 24 hours) normally prior to staff going home and attached to the CPOMS report.

A Health and Safety Accident/Incident report (HS1) will be completed and returned to the Authority in situations where injury has occurred to either members of staff or pupils. This form may also be completed after a violent incident even if no-one is injured.

Reporting incidents

All incidents recorded on a RF1 form or entered into CPOMS will be reported to parents. This may be by telephone or in the home-school diary, depending on the nature of the

incident and the procedure agreed with parents when their child's Behaviour Management Plan is devised/reviewed.

Monitoring incidents

Whenever a member of staff has occasion to use reasonable force, this will always be recorded and documented following agreed procedures. Monitoring of incidents will help to ensure that staff are following the correct procedures and will alert the Head Teacher to the needs of any pupil(s) whose behaviour may require the use of reasonable force.

Monitoring of incidents will take place on a regular basis (at least half-termly) and the results used to inform planning to meet individual pupil and school needs. To support the Head Teacher & school and ensure objectivity the Governors Health and Safety Committee and the School Effectiveness Committee will be involved in the monitoring process.

The Headteacher will present an annual summary of incidents that have involved the use of force to the Governing Body Health and Safety Committee.

Action after an incident

At Astley Park School we have a debrief procedure which should be utilised if staff need to debrief after an incident. Where staff have been involved in an incident involving reasonable force they should have access to support via a Face to Face meeting to debrief the situation with the Headteacher, Deputy or SEND Support Manager if necessary.

The Headteacher will ensure that each incident is reviewed and investigated further as required. If further action is required in relation to a member of staff or a pupil, this will be pursued through the appropriate procedure:

- Review of Learner Support Plan and Positive Handling Plan
- Child Protection Procedure (this may involve investigations by Police and/or Social Services)
- Staff or Pupil Disciplinary Procedure
- School Behaviour Policy

- Exclusions Procedure; in the case of violence or assault against a member of staff this may be considered
- The member of staff will be kept informed of any action taken.
 - In the case of any action concerning a member of staff, he/she will be advised to seek advice from his/her professional association/union.

In some circumstances it may be appropriate to provide additional training or professional support for particular staff in relation to the management of incidents where although the criteria for the application of the above procedures were not met, it is decided that the incident could have been managed more effectively.

Support Following Incidents

Any member of staff or pupil at the school involved in or witnessing a serious incident involving the use of RPI may require additional support following the incident.

Staff should ensure that they are fully recovered from an incident before resuming their duties and colleagues are encouraged to seek and offer support where it is deemed necessary.

Pupils who may be distressed by events can be offered the following support:

- Quiet time taking part in a calming activity
- Quiet time away from the incident/trigger
- Resuming their usual routine/previous activity as soon as possible, especially for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Time with a member of staff to debrief the incident.

Complaints

The availability of a clear policy about reasonable force and early involvement of parents should reduce the likelihood of complaints but may not eliminate them.

Where the nature of any complaint made by a pupil, parent or other person in relation to the use of RPI within the school indicates that an allegation of mishandling by a member of staff is being made which complies with the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Guidance, the matter will be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in accordance with LA procedures.

In such circumstances the investigation of the complaint/allegation and any resulting action in respect of child protection, disciplinary or other procedures will be carried out in accordance with the guidance received from the LA.

Whistle Blowing

Whilst the training in TEAM TEACH provided to all staff, encourages the use of help protocols and reflective practice, it is acknowledged that under some circumstances, physical intervention can be misapplied. Staff are reminded that part of their duty of care to pupils includes the requirement to report any such matters which cause them concern in relation to pupil management and welfare. Any such concerns, (short of immediate Child Protection concerns which should of course be passed to the DSL), should be raised with the Headteacher and Team Teach Tutor, another Senior Leader or with the Chair of Governors in order to allow concerns to be addressed and practice improved.

Reference documents

DCSF, The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils – supersedes Circular 10/98 - http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/_doc/12187/ACFD89B.pdf

The Violent Crime reduction Act 2006 (screening and searching of pupils for weapons guidance for school staff), Department for Education and Skills, 2007 – www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety/schoolsecurity/

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 - Section 93 replaces section 550A of the Education Act 1996 - <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/en2006/06en40-f.htm>

Guidance on the Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions for Pupils with Severe Behavioural Difficulties, Joint Guidance DfES and DoH, 2003 – www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sen/piguide

Risk Assessment Pro Forma - <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=5334>

Guidance on the use of restrictive physical interventions for staff working with Children who display Extreme Behaviour in Association with Learning Disability and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Joint Guidance DfES and DoH, 2002 – www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sen/piguide

The Children's Act 1989

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1989/Ukpga_19890041_en_1.htm

