

Bishop Challoner Catholic College



Next Review

October 2026

Review Period

Annual

Principal Reviewed

October 2025

Website Published

October 2025

Current Status

Complete

Staff Owner

M Nutt

Government/DfE Requirement

Good Practice

Use of Reasonable Force

Bishop Challoner Guidance on Use of Reasonable Force

This guidance has been compiled using DfE guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>

1. Legal Authority & Support

- School staff have the legal power to use reasonable force
- Lawful use provides defence against criminal or legal action
- School leaders should support staff in using this power appropriately

2. Definition of Reasonable Force

- Involves physical contact to control or restrain pupils in **exceptional circumstances** and as a **last resort**
- Can range from guiding a student to breaking up fights
- Must be proportionate to the situation and necessary

3. Who Can Use Reasonable Force?

- All school staff have the authority to use force

4. When Can Reasonable Force Be Used?

- To prevent harm, property damage, or disorder
- Examples include stopping fights, removing disruptive pupils, or preventing dangerous behaviour
- Parental consent is not required for using force

5. School Policies & Communication

- School behaviour policy outlines the use of reasonable force
- A "no contact" policy is discouraged, as it may hinder staff responsibilities
- The Principal should be informed of any incident and a record made using the BC Reasonable Force Report form

6. Informing Parents

- Senior staff will inform parents about serious incidents involving force