



# CARLINGHOW ACADEMY

## Positive Handling Policy

<b>Approved by:</b>	Governors		
<b>Responsible department:</b>	Carlinghow Academy		
<b>Last review date:</b>	September 2024	<b>Last reviewed by:</b>	Governors
<b>Last updated:</b>		<b>Last updated by:</b>	
<b>Next review due :</b>	September 2025		

Carlinghow Academy are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment. This policy is based on government guidance. The circular refers to the 1996 and 1997 Education Acts and use of reasonable force in schools July 2013, which clarify the position regarding the use of physical force by teachers and other staff working in schools, to control or restrain pupils. Relevant staff have been Team Teach trained in positive handling methods.

### **What is reasonable force/positive handling?**

1. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
2. Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
3. 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
4. As mentioned above, schools generally use force to control pupils and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.
5. Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.
6. School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

### **When positive handling should be used**

Carlinghow Academy we believe that the use of reasonable physical restraint is only necessary to prevent pupils from:

- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property, including their own
- Engaging in any behaviour that causes great disruption or a breakdown in discipline among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in the classroom or elsewhere on the provision grounds
- Committing a criminal offence
- Prevent pupils attempting to leave school premises

For example

- remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;

- prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground
- restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts

The use of physical restraint will always be the last resort. Other behavioural management strategies will be used before physical intervention.

Physical restraint can be used Carlinghow Academy acknowledge that we have a legal duty to make reasonable adjustments when using physical resistant on children with SEND (special education needs and disabilities).

### **Responsibility**

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force, however at Carlinghow Academy where possible only staff who have completed 'team teach' training will use positive handling unless there is a danger to life (for example a child runs into the road).

This power applies to any member of staff at the school. It can also apply to people whom the Principal has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.

All staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the procedure to follow should a situation arise. Staff should always avoid touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered inappropriate.

The decision on whether to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the teacher/ staff member concerned. Whether the force used is reasonable will always depend on the particular circumstances of the case. The use of force is reasonable if it is proportionate to the consequences it is intended to prevent. This means the degree of force used should be no more than is needed to achieve the desired result.

In using physical restraint, the level and duration of the restraint will always be the minimum necessary to restore safety. In any action, due regard has to be taken to the age and understanding of the pupil. Knowledge of the pupil is a key factor in the judgement that will be made.

Strategies and techniques that may be required for an individual will be included in the pupil's, Individual Behaviour Plan or Behaviour Management Plans if they have them.

School do not need parents' consent to use physical restraint on a child.

### **Recording Incidents**

Where restraint has been necessary, the incident must be reported via CPOMs to the SLT/ Safeguarding Officer at the staffs' earliest convenience – for example escorting a child from the classroom using a single elbow or shield - any serious incidents must be reported immediately to SLT, verbally in the first instance. In the rare event where a mark is left on a child from a hold a body map should be completed and attached. If staff do not have access

to CPOMs the form below should be used.

In serious incidents staff involved in any incident are given time to 'de-brief' with comments recorded in the report.

In the case of serious incidents Pupils that have been restrained are given time to 'de-brief' with a third person present. The pupil's comments will be recorded on CPOMS.

The schools will ensure that time is given to 'repair' relationships between staff involved in the restraint and the pupil.

In the event of an injury occurring, the appropriate accident reporting procedures must be followed.

There is no legal requirement to inform Parents/Carers if positive handling/ physical restraint has been used on a child - the school will in all circumstances decide whether it is appropriate to report the use of force to parents, this will depend on the seriousness of the incident.

No one incident is the same however it is the schools decision that if a physical restraint has involved the use of two adults or has left a mark parents will be informed.

In deciding what a serious incident is, teachers should use their professional judgement and consider the:

- pupil's behaviour and level of risk presented at the time of the incident;
- degree of force used;
- effect on the pupil or member of staff; and
- the child's age.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

## Restraint Report Form

Name of child	
Date & Time	
Location and school site of incident	
Person/s involved in restraint	

What de-escalation strategies were attempted before restraint was used?

*E.g. Reassurance, negotiation, choices/limits, humour, verbal advice and support, distraction, consequences, planned ignoring, withdrawal, success reminder, time out offered/time out directed - observed/unobserved*

### Incident details

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### Action taken by school

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Reported by

(Name, sign & date)

**SLT**

*(Name, sign, position & date)*