

# Pass Move Grin

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## Education

### Use of physical restraint

Pass Move Grin Education encourages pupils to make positive behaviour choices. However pupils sometimes do make the wrong choices. On rare occasions this may result in a situation that requires some form of physical intervention by staff. Our Restraint Policy is based upon the following principles:

- » Physical intervention is used only as a last resort when other appropriate strategies have failed.
- » Any physical contact is only the minimum required.
- » Physical intervention is used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.
- » Incidents are recorded and reported to the Headteacher.
- » Parents are informed of each incident.

### **THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

Section 93 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 allows teachers and other persons who are authorised by the Headteacher who have control or charge of pupils to use such force as is reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- » causing injury to his/herself or others
- » committing an offence
- » damaging property
- » prejudicing the maintenance of good order & discipline.

### **DEFINITION OF REASONABLE FORCE AND RESTRAINT**

The DFE guidance (2013) on the 'Use of Reasonable Force' defines and explains these terms in the following way:

- » 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.
- » 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 pupil needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
- » 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- » 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.
- » 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.

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. All members of staff who can use reasonable force have a legal power to use it. This power applies to any member of staff at the school. It can also apply to people whom the Headteacher has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying pupils on a school organised visit. When possible, restraint will not be used. When it is necessary, the Head Teacher, Deputy or Assistant Head will carry this out.

The DFE Guidance 2013 on 'Use of reasonable force' states that schools can use reasonable force to:

- » 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, trip or a 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; and
- » restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

Schools cannot use force as a punishment. It is always unlawful to use force as a punishment. In addition to the general power to use reasonable force described above, Headteachers and authorised staff can use such force, as is reasonable given the circumstances, to

conduct a search for the following 'prohibited items': knives and weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks, pornographic images and any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property. Force cannot be used to search for items banned under the provision's rules. A search will always be carried with another member of staff present. This is to safeguard the child and staff member against complaint or accusation.

## **OUR APPROACH**

Pass move Grin Education aims to avoid the need for physical intervention and regard this as a last resort in a minority of situations. We always aim to deal with behaviour using a positive approach and therefore this policy should be read in connection with our Behaviour Principles and Behaviour Policy. It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate. Staff exercise their own professional judgement in situations which arise within the above categories. Staff act within our school's policy on behaviour and discipline, particularly in dealing with disruptive behaviour. Once again it is stressed that physical intervention is only used when all other strategies have failed to have the desired effect on a pupil's behaviour.

There are occasions when physical contact, other than reasonable force, with a pupil is proper and necessary. It may be appropriate to hold the hand of the child at the front/back of the line when walking together around the school or out on a school trip. Physical contact may be appropriate when:

- › comforting a distressed pupil or congratulating and praising them.
- › To demonstrate how to use a musical instrument
- › To demonstrate exercises or techniques during PE lessons or sports coaching.
- › To give first aid.

Staff are aware that when they are in charge of children during the school day, or during other supervised activities, they have a 'Duty of Care' to all children they are in charge of. They therefore take reasonable action to ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils. However, staff are not expected to place themselves in situations where they are likely to suffer injury as a result of their intervention.

## **USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OR INTERVENTION**

Physical restraint is applied as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allowing the pupil to

regain self control. It never takes a form which could be seen as punishment. Staff are only authorised to use reasonable force in applying physical restraint i.e. only applying force necessary to stop or prevent danger should be used, in accordance with the guidelines below. In all circumstances, alternative methods are used as appropriate with physical intervention or restraint a last resort. All staff must complete team training at the earliest convenience. Refresher Training will be considered for staff who are working closely with children with behavioural difficulties.

### **ACTIONS AFTER AN INCIDENT**

Physical restraint often occurs in response to highly charged emotional situations and there is a clear need for debriefing after the incident, both for the staff involved and the pupil. The Headteacher is informed of any incident as soon as possible and takes responsibility for making arrangements for debriefing once the situation has stabilised. An appropriate member of the teaching staff debriefs the pupil concerned: the debrief includes consideration of the circumstances that precipitated the incident and exploring ways in which future incidents can be avoided. Any other individuals involved in the incident are offered support. If the behaviour is part of an on-going pattern it will probably be necessary to address the situation through the development or review of an individual behaviour plan (IBP), which may include a risk assessment, an anger management programme and possible involvement of external agencies. Behaviour incidences are logged on ATLAS (The Citation platform).

### **RISK ASSESSMENTS**

If we become aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a disruptive way that may require the use of reasonable force, we will plan how to respond if the situation arises. Such planning (recorded on an IBP; Individual Behaviour Plan) addresses: » Strategies to be used prior to intervention » Ways of avoiding 'triggers' if these are known » Involvement of parents to ensure that they are clear about the specific action the school might need to take » Briefing of staff to ensure they know exactly what action they should be taking (this may identify a need for training or guidance) » Identification of additional support that can be summoned if appropriate » The school's duty of care to all pupils and staff

### **COMPLAINTS AND ALLEGATIONS**

This clear physical intervention and restraint policy, adhered to by all staff and shared with parents, should help to avoid complaints from parents. It is unlikely to prevent all complaints,

however, a dispute about the use of force by a member of staff might lead to an investigation under our complaints procedure. If following preliminary investigations it is deemed necessary, the Headteacher will contact the LADO in line with our Child Protection Policy and Procedures. It is our intention to inform all staff, pupils, parents and governors about these procedures and the context in which they apply.

***This policy was reviewed March 2023-To be reviewed March 2024***