

Tai Education Centre



PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

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1 Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- explain staffs right to use physical restraint when necessary;
- explain the circumstances in which physical restraint may be justified;
- set out the recording and reporting system; and
- explain the various responsibilities.

2 Powers of members of staff to detain students by use of force

2.1 *The Education and Inspections Act 2006* confirmed the right of staff to use 'such force as is reasonable' for the purpose of preventing a student from:

- committing an offence;
- causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including themselves); and
- prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline.

2.2 The explanatory notes give an example of 'reasonable force' - leading a student by the arm to enforce an instruction to leave the class.

2.3 However, nothing in the law concerning the use of reasonable force legitimises corporal punishment.

2.4 Where a school has pupils with known severe behaviour disorder, only trained staff are allowed to use restraint techniques. The member of staff must be trained in the technique that is to be used. No staff can physically restrain pupils exhibiting extremes of behaviour unless so trained.

3 Right to search students

3.1 *The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006* gives the Head, and any member of the school staff authorised by the Head, who has reasonable grounds for believing that a student may have with him/her or in his/her possession a knife or offensive weapon, the right to search that student.

3.2 The Head must ensure that the person carrying out the search is of the same sex as the student and the search must be carried out in the presence of another adult also the same sex as the student. The student cannot be required to remove any clothing other than outer clothing and if the student's possessions are searched this must also be done in the presence of another adult. The person carrying out the search is able to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances for exercising that power.

3.3 The Head **cannot** normally 'require' the school staff to conduct the searches, only 'authorise' them to do so. But they may 'require' security staff to carry out searches.

3.4 If a search reveals any 'offensive weapons' or knives, or 'evidence in relation to an offence' the school **MUST** call the police in. The school has no discretion in this, not even if the school wishes to resort solely to internal discipline procedures.

4 Circumstances where physical restraint may be justified

- 4.1 Physical restraint should only be used as a last resort; other non-physical strategies for diffusing the situation must be tried first.
- 4.2 Whenever possible, the age, level of understanding and gender of the student should be considered. In addition staff should be mindful of any student who is on the Child Protection Register.
- 4.3 If there is need to restrain a child with known behavioural difficulties, only staff trained in appropriate restraint techniques should attempt to restrain such students.
- 4.4 The Management Committee appreciates that in some instances (such as stopping a child who is running down a corridor) staff may have to act quickly, and without having the time to consider all the circumstances.

5 Examples of behaviour likely to lead to restraint:

- 5.1
- physical attack by a student on an adult/student;
 - deliberate damage to school property;
 - a student behaving in a way which places others at risk, e.g. pushing, tripping on a staircase, rough play or running in a corridor;
 - preventing a student running into a busy road;
 - refusal by a disruptive student to leave the classroom.
- 5.2 Restraint is **NOT** a punishment and must not be used as such.
- **ASSISTANCE** should be sought whenever possible.
 - The student(s) should be told that this has been done.
 - Remove any other students who are at risk.
 - Avoid the use of restraint in a one-to-one situation, witnesses are important.
- 5.3 Restraint should not lead to injury: staff **SHOULD NOT**:
- hold a student around the neck or collar, or in a way that might restrict breathing;
 - slap, punch or kick;
 - twist or force limbs against a joint;
 - trip;
 - hold or pull by the hair or ear; or
 - hold a student face down on the ground.

6 Physical contact with vulnerable students

6.1 Normally all staff should avoid physical contact with pupils. But it is accepted that some more vulnerable pupils, and particularly those with special educational needs, require more physical contact than other pupils in order to assist their everyday learning. This is entirely appropriate and proper for staff, but it is crucial that they only do so in ways appropriate to their professional role and in accordance with the school's policies on which restraint techniques may be used and by whom.

Except in an emergency only **trained staff** should use restraint techniques on vulnerable pupils with behavioural difficulties, and the techniques which may be used are only the ones that the member of staff is trained to use.

6.2 Specific arrangements should be:

- understood and agreed by all concerned;
- justified in terms of the child's needs;
- consistently applied;
- open to scrutiny; and
- reviewed regularly.

6.3 When physical contact is made with pupils this should be in response to their needs at the time, of limited duration and appropriate given their age, stage of development, gender, ethnicity and background.

6.4 If a member of staff believes that an action could be misinterpreted, the incident and circumstances should be recorded as soon as possible on the school's incident sheets and, if appropriate, a copy placed on the pupil's file.

7 Staff Code of Conduct

7.1 Staff at this school are expected to:

- be aware that even well intentioned physical contact may be misconstrued by the pupil, an observer or by anyone to whom this action is described;
- always be prepared to explain actions and accept that all physical contact be open to scrutiny;
- be aware of the government guidance in respect of physical contact with pupils and meeting medical needs of children; and
- ensure that all incidents are reported and logged in the school's Incident Log.

7.2 Staff may legitimately intervene using physical restraint to:

- prevent a pupil from committing a criminal offence;
- injuring themselves or others;
- causing damage to property;
- engaging in behaviour prejudicial to good order; and
- maintain good order and discipline.

7.3 Staff should have regard to the health and safety of themselves and others.

7.4 In all cases where physical intervention is deemed necessary, the incident and subsequent actions should be documented and reported.

7.5 Under no circumstances should physical force be used as a form of punishment.

7.6 The use of unwarranted physical force is likely to constitute a criminal offence.

7.7 Staff at this school must:

- adhere to the school's physical intervention policy;
- always seek to defuse situations; and
- always use minimum force for the shortest period necessary.

8 Training and Support

The Head will ensure that appropriate training is provided for key staff annually and for all staff at least every two years.

The Head will ensure that the system enables account to be taken of the records in the Incident Log and elsewhere.

9 Equal Opportunities

In implementing this policy all staff must take account of the school's equal opportunities policies.

Only trained staff are authorised to use permitted restraint techniques on pupils with disabilities who may exhibit behavioural difficulties.

10 Responsibilities

The Management Committee is responsible for making and reviewing the policy.

The Head is responsible for the implementation of the policy in the school.

All staff have a duty to know the policy and to ensure that it is implemented.

11 Monitoring and Review

11.1 The Head will:

- ensure that a recording and reporting system is in place and is maintained;
- ensure that a senior member of staff is in charge of the Incident Log (see Appendix 1) and reports regularly to the Leadership Team.
- report incidents and the outcome to the Management Committee.

11.2 The Management Committee will review the policy every two years.

Signed: (Chair of Management Committee)

Signed: Headteacher

Date:



Serious Incident Report & Restrictive Physical Intervention Record

In cases of Restrictive Physical Intervention please complete all sections and,
within 1 week of the restraint return the form to:

Lorna Bryant, Administrative Officer, Access and Inclusion, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4UQ.

Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn y Gymraeg / This document is available in Welsh.

Serious Incident Report No				Date					
Name of pupil									
Date of Birth				NC Year					
School									
Provision e.g. mainstream/specialist provision (If specialist – clarify type of provision)									
Location of incident									
Full names and roles of staff involved:									
Start/finish time of incident (hour : mins)		Duration of any <u>Restraint</u>		Any injuries during Restraint		Medical check		Incident reviewed with young person	
Start	Finish	minutes	Other		Offered		Offered		
			Pupil		Accepted		Accepted		
			None		Refused		Refused		
Nature of Incident				Supporting records completed					
Absconding				Incident book					
Serious disruption				Accident report					
Damage to property				Medical report					
Assault/injury to person				RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences)					
Criminal offence				Formal statement					
Environment and triggers: Describe what was happening prior to the incident:									
Risk assessment (who was at risk and at what level)									
Himself/herself	high/medium/low/n one	Adult(s)	high/medium/low/n one	Other pupil(s)	high/medium/low/n one				
Tick and/or describe precisely what the risk was:									
Verbal Abuse		Slap		Hair grab					
Bite		Pinch		Clothing grab					
Kick		Spit		Neck grab					
Punch		Body holds		Arm grab					

Throwing Objects		Weapon		Other	
Other:					



Description of the incident		
Does the pupil have a Positive Handling Plan?	Yes / No	
If yes, when did the plan start	Date	
Diversion, distraction and de-escalation attempted		
Verbal advice and support		Distraction
Firm clear directions		Diversion
Negotiation		Reassurance
Limited choices		Planned ignoring
Reassuring touch		Withdrawal (offered)
Calm talk		Withdrawal (directed)
Time out		Change of adult during incident
Success reminders		Humour
Reminders of consequences		Other
Team-Teach Restrictive Physical Intervention strategies used		
Small person escort		T wrap
Friendly hold		T wrap to seating
Single elbow (two person)		Pupil supported/facilitated safely to floor
Single elbow (two person) to seating		Other
Describe other Restrictive Physical Intervention strategies used		
Details and date(s) of Team Teach training or other BILD accredited training received by member(s) of staff involved		
Name	Training	Date
Learning points (update/ set out new PHP accordingly)		
Was there a post-incident meeting with parents?	Yes / No	
If yes, what was the date of the meeting?	Date	



Was there a post-incident meeting with the pupil?	Yes / No		
If yes, what was the date of the meeting?	Date		
Has the Positive Handling Plan been updated	Yes / No		
If yes, what was the date of the update?	Date		
Is there a multi-agency meeting needed?	Yes / No		
If yes, what is the date of the meeting?	Date		
External agencies informed			
Parent/ carer		Medical staff	
Placing authority		EPS	
TAF		BST	
CP referral		YOS	
Social worker		Police	
Pupil's account of incident and discussion (written with staff member with whom the child has a good relationship)			
Staff member		Date	

Signatures are required from the person completing the report and all other persons involved / witness

Name of person completing report		Designation	
Signature		Date	

Signature of other person involved		Date	
Signature of other person involved		Date	
Signature of other person involved		Date	
Signature of other person involved		Date	
Signature of other person involved		Date	
Signature of other person involved		Date	



This form will only be accepted if countersigned by the Headteacher

Signature		Date	
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It is suggested that central record of all SIR/RPIs should be held centrally by schools in an incident book and copy of form to be placed in learner's individual record.

Only send copy to Access and Inclusion if the pupil is held.

For Office Use Only

Date received by Access and Inclusion	
Signature SEN Coordinator Behaviour	
Was the school contacted?	Yes / No
Is further action required?	Yes / No
If yes, give details	
Date forwarded to Access and Inclusion	
Date Processed	