

Christ Church (Brondesbury) CE Primary School

Positive Handling Policy



Responsible Governors' Committee	Full Governing Board
Date Approved	11th September 2025
Date of next review	September 2026
Signature	

Christ Church (Brondesbury) CE Primary School

School Vision

Christ Church (Brondesbury) CE Primary School is a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive school at the centre of our diverse local community. We are perceived as a “family” by all who know us.

As a Christian school, we encourage everyone to be their best and to grow in God's creation. We provide a supportive, safe, respectful and reflective environment in which all flourish irrespective of their culture and belief.

We provide the highest standard of learning for all of our community and encourage them to pursue aspirational goals.

The school's vision is deeply rooted within the scripture passage:

2 Corinthians 8:7

“But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, and in all eagerness and in the love from us that is in you—make sure that you excel in this act of kindness too.”

Our vision is embedded within the Christian values of:

Compassion, Respect, Friendship, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Wisdom.

Our vision is expressed by all as “**Going for GOLD with faith**”.

This is explained and explored below:

Vision	Demonstrated as
G ive learning your best	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try your best at everything• Follow the “give me five” rules
O wn your choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be respectful and polite• Be honest and take responsibility for your words and actions
L ove yourself, as God loves you	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Love yourself, for you are special• Love your neighbours with all your heart
D ream big, work hard and pray	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim high• Always be ready to learn• With prayer, everything is possible

This policy reflects and supports our school vision in that through the appropriate use of positive handling techniques we strive to “...provide a **supportive, safe and respectful environment** in which all flourish...”. This is also reflected in our Going for GOLD with faith statement as Loving yourself (and your neighbour) as God loves you.

Christ Church CE Primary School 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.

1. 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

This policy has been written with DFE 'Use of reasonable force' advice for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies July 2013 (see appendix 1).

2. 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.

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 and 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 school rules.

3. OUR APPROACH

We aim 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 for learning policy (2022 - 2023).

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.

NB It is not illegal to touch a pupil. There are occasions when physical contact, other than reasonable force, with a pupil is proper and necessary. Examples of where touching a pupil might be proper or necessary:

- Holding the hand of the child at the front/back of the line when going to assembly or when walking together around the school
- When comforting a distressed pupil
- When a pupil is being congratulated or praised
- 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 are acting in loco parentis and 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. This being said staff are not expected to place themselves in situations where they are likely to suffer injury as a result of their intervention.

4. 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. Training in Positive Handling techniques will be provided for staff when available from the Local Authority.

In the exceptional circumstances when physical restraint or intervention becomes necessary, staff:

Do	Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summon help / involve another member of staff if possible• Continue to talk to the pupil in a calm way• Use simple and clear language• Tell the pupil what s/he must do for them to remove the restraint (this may need frequent repetition)• Use the minimum force necessary• Be aware of any feelings of anger• Hold limbs above a major joint if possible, e.g. above the elbow• Relax the restraint in response to the pupil's compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try to manage on your own• Stop talking, even if the pupil does not reply• Act in temper• Allow a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil• Involve other pupils in the restraint• Use physical restraint or intervention as a punishment• Touch or hold the pupil in a way that could be viewed as sexually inappropriate conduct• Twist or force limbs back against a joint• Bend fingers or pull hair• Hold the pupil in a way which will restrict blood flow or breathing, e.g. around the neck• Slap, punch, kick or trip up the pupil

Appendix 1 – Link to DfE Guidance

The DfE guidance 'Use of reasonable force – advice for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies, July 2013' (11 pages) can be found online here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444051/Use_of_reasonable_force_advice_Reviewed_July_2015.pdf

