

ARCHBISHOP BLANCH SCHOOL



Archbishop Blanch
SCHOOL

POLICY ON PUPIL PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

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**Community, Compassion, Forgiveness, Friendship,
Thanksgiving, Trust**

This policy should be taken and used as part of Archbishop Blanch Church of England School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our Mission Statement and Instrument of Government aims.

As a Church of England School, we accept and respect all members of our community as unique children of God, precious in His sight and of infinite worth.

INTRODUCTION TO OUR POLICY ON PUPIL PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

A teacher's right to restrain pupils has its foundation in the Education Act of 1996, which explains the powers of teachers, and of other staff who have lawful charge of pupils, to use reasonable force to prevent pupils from causing injury, damage or disruption. It falls by contract and common law within the Teacher's Duty of Care.

THE USE OF RESTRAINT

At Archbishop Blanch School, the use of force to restrain pupils should only be undertaken as a last resort when a pupil has lost control and is in danger of hurting themselves or another person. In such a situation, members of staff may need to use non-violent physical intervention. Before intervening physically a member of staff should, **wherever possible**,

- tell the pupil to stop what they are doing
- explain what will happen if he or she does not
- continue to communicate with the pupil throughout
- not give the impression that they have lost their temper
- make it clear that physical contact will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary.

There are times when a member of staff should not intervene in an incident without help, unless it is an emergency. Such times may be when the incident involves a group of pupils or when the adult considers he or she may be at risk of injury. In those circumstances the member of staff should move away other pupils who may be at risk and summon assistance from a colleague. Until assistance arrives, the member of staff should continue to attempt to calm the situation orally.

WHERE RESTRAINT IS NECESSARY

Staff should always try to deal with a situation through other strategies before using restraint. In all situations, **restraint should only be used when other methods have failed and only where there is a significant risk of injury to the pupil, other pupils or anyone else.** Also, it should be undertaken as an act of care and control, not as a punishment.

Where restraint is considered necessary, physical intervention may include a member of staff

- interposing themselves between pupils
- blocking a pupil's path
- holding
- pulling
- pushing
- leading a pupil by the arm or hand
- shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back.

In exceptional circumstances, where there is a real risk of injury, a member of staff may need to take any necessary action that is consistent with the concept of 'reasonable force'. Such circumstances may include the need to prevent a pupil running onto a busy road, or to prevent a pupil hitting someone or throwing something.

Staff should not act in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause serious injury, for example by

- slapping, punching or kicking a pupil
- holding a pupil around the neck or in any other way that might restrict the pupil's ability to breathe
- tripping up a pupil
- holding a pupil by the hair or ear
- holding a pupil face down on the ground.

Members of staff should also avoid touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered indecent.

RECORDING AN INCIDENT INVOLVING RESTRAINT

1. There must be a detailed written report of any occasion where restraint is used. It may help prevent any misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the incident and it will be helpful if there is a complaint. The school will keep a record of all such incidents.
2. Immediately following any such incident, the member of staff concerned should inform the Headteacher or a member of the Leadership Team. This should be followed as soon as possible by a written statement. This statement should include
 - the name(s) of the pupil(s) involved and when and where the incident took place;
 - the names of any other member of staff or pupils who witnessed the incident;
 - the reason that restraint was necessary (for example, to prevent injury to the pupil, another pupil or a member of staff);
 - how the incident began and progressed, including details of the pupil's behaviour, what was said by those involved, the steps taken to calm the situation, the degree of force used, how that was applied and for how long;
 - the pupil's response and the outcome of the incident
 - details of any injury suffered by the pupil, another pupil, or a member of staff and of any damage to property.

The member of staff may wish to seek advice from a member of the Leadership Team when compiling this report. They should also keep a copy of the report.

3. The Headteacher, or Deputy Headteacher, will inform the parent(s) or carer/s of the pupil(s) involved by the end of the day where possible, either orally or in writing. They may be invited to the school to discuss the incident.

The school acknowledges the guidelines in Section 550A of the Education Act 1996, "The Use of Reasonable Force to Control and Restrain Pupils" and the LEA "Guidance Notes for the Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils", and take these into account in our policy and practice.