



WESTFIELD SCHOOL

POLICY FOR PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

STATEMENT

It is the policy of this school to restrain children only when absolutely necessary to make a situation safe for all concerned.

Staff use physical intervention only as a last resort to protect the safety of children or adults after appropriate de-escalation strategies have been used or in the event of serious exceptional situations where this is not possible or appropriate.

Where possible other children who may be in danger should be removed from the area and the child causing the disturbance given plenty of room.

All staff are instructed to ensure that they follow the school policy in physical intervention or restraint.

SPECIFICALLY

The procedures to be followed in such circumstances are:-

Emergency Procedure

- Endeavour to make the situation safe without the use of physical restraint.
- Summon help.
- If physical restraint is unavoidable before help arrives the child should be restrained, using the minimum force possible, by the arms and/or legs only.
- The full procedure should then be followed when assistance arrives.

Full Procedure

- A minimum of two adults should be present at all times.
- The minimum force required to ensure safety should be used.

- The child should be removed from the situation to a place of safety as soon as possible. A place of safety being that where the child can do minimum harm to itself or others and one conducive to calming the situation.
- Attempts should be made to calm the child. Emergency medical help should be summoned if required.
- If attempts to calm fail within a reasonable period (30 minutes maximum) the child's parents should be contacted and requested to attend.
- If parents are not required the deputy Headteacher or Headteacher should communicate with them in writing/phone about the incident as soon as possible.
- All incidents requiring such action are logged with the headteacher or appropriate senior manager. Parents, carers & social workers are informed on the same day.
- Separate written incident reports by all staff involved will be completed as soon as possible after the incident on the same day, unless in exceptional circumstances.
- Restorative methods will be considered after each such incident and the pupil's views on the incident sought by a member of staff not involved directly in the incident.
- Support, as appropriate, will be offered to staff involved.
- Incidents will be reviewed by senior staff not directly involved and any recommended actions or training will be discussed and implemented as soon as possible.