

# Use of Reasonable Force Policy [Paragraph 9, Part 3 ISSR] Bablake Junior and Pre-Prep School

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<b>Regulatory / Statutory Authority(ies)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Independent School Standards Regulations (ISSR).</li> <li>▪ Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) – Para 9, Part 3 ISSR – Behaviour; Welfare, Health and Safety of Pupils.</li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.gov.uk">Use of reasonable force in schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></li> </ul>
<b>Related Policies, Procedures, and/or Documentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School Behaviour Policy</li> </ul>
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## VERSION HISTORY

Version Number	Amendment(s) Or Formal Review	Date [Month/Year]	Summary of change(s)
1.0	Formal Review	August 2023	Formal Review and Approval at Full Governing Board
1.2	Update	April 2024	New branding, minor formatting [no core content change].



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## 1 Introduction

Every school should set out in its Behaviour Policy or related policies the circumstances in which physical force can be used.

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following:

- Committing a criminal offence;
- Causing personal injury to themselves or another;
- Causing damage to property belonging to them or another, including the school;
- Any behaviour prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline in the school.

## 2 Permissible Use of Reasonable Force

Adults within schools can use reasonable force. Examples of where the use of force might be reasonable are listed below:

- A pupil attacks a member of staff, or another pupil;
- Pupils are fighting, causing a risk of injury to themselves or others;
- A pupil is committing, or on the verge of committing, deliberate damage to property;
- A pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or object;
- A pupil absconds from a class (or detention) or tries to leave school other than at an authorised time.

Refusal of a pupil to remain in a particular place is not enough on its own to justify use of force. It would only be justifiable where allowing a pupil to leave would:

- a) Entail serious risks to the pupil's safety (taking into account age and understanding), to the safety of other pupils or staff, or of damage to property; or
- b) Lead to behaviour that prejudices good order and discipline, such as disrupting other classes;
- c) A pupil persistently refuses to follow an instruction to leave a classroom;
- d) A pupil is behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a lesson; or
- e) A pupil is behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a school sporting event or school visit.

In these examples use of physical force is likely to be construed as reasonable (and therefore lawful) if it was clear that the behaviour was sufficiently dangerous or disruptive to warrant physical intervention of the degree applied and could not realistically be dealt with by any other means.



### 3 Using Force

Before using force, staff should – where practicable – tell the pupil to stop misbehaving. Care should be taken to avoid giving the impression that the member of staff is angry or frustrated or are acting to punish the child. It should be clear with calm language that as soon as the need for force ceases, it will stop.

Appropriate use of force will range from physical passive presence in between pupils, to blocking a pupil's path, ushering them by placing a hand in the centre of the back, leading/guiding them by the hand or arm, to in more extreme circumstances using appropriate restraining holds. Particular attention will be given to individuals' needs which arise from statements of SEN or disability.

Whilst it is highly desirable that staff should avoid acting in any way which might reasonably be expected to cause an injury, in truly exceptional circumstances, it is recognised that it may not be always possible to avoid.

Any such injury caused will be properly investigated by the school and will require justification.

### 4 Keeping Records

When force has been used, the Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead should be informed immediately.

A record of each significant incident of the use of force to control and restrain will include the following details:

- name of member of staff
- date of the incident
- names of pupils involved
- witnesses
- where the incident took place
- description of the incident
- any steps taken to calm the situation before force was considered necessary
- reason why the use of force was necessary
- nature of the force used
- the pupil's response
- the outcome
- details of any injury suffered or damage to property

A copy of the incident form can be found at the end of this policy ([Appendix A](#)), entitled, 'Record of an Incident Requiring Physical Intervention/Restraint'.

The purpose of recording is to ensure that policy guidelines are followed, to inform parents/carers, to inform future planning as part of the school improvement processes,



to prevent misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the incident and to provide a record for any future enquiry. Parents/carers will be informed of the incident.

## 5 Post Incident Support

After any physical restraint, the pupil needs to be assessed by the School Nurse and recorded on the Physical Intervention Form found at the end of this policy. If injuries result from the application of reasonable force, medical attention should be sought immediately. It is also important to ensure that staff are given emotional support. As soon as possible after the incident, parents/carers should be informed.

When assessing the incident, consideration may be given to involving multi-agency partners to offer support or advice. Where a pupil is responsible for injury to another, as well as holding him/her to account and issuing appropriate sanctions, the pupil will be given the opportunity to repair the relationships with pupils and staff affected by the incident. The pupil will be offered appropriate support to help develop strategies for avoiding such crisis points in future.

## 6 Other Physical Contact with Pupils

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:

- 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 a PE lesson or coaching session;
- To administer first aid.

## 7 Other Documentation

This policy should be read alongside the School's Behaviour Policy.

## 8 Appendix A: Record of an Incident Requiring Physical Intervention/Restraint

The form to be completed after an incident requiring physical intervention or restraint can be found overleaf or [click here](#).



**Appendix A:**

**Record of an Incident Requiring Physical Intervention/Restraint**  
*(to be completed promptly following a physical restraint incident)*

Name of staff member: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

Time and date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnesses: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of the incident (including any steps taken to calm the situation initially, reason why the use of force was necessary, nature of the intervention used, the pupil's response, the outcome):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Was the School Nurse called to assess any injury: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Details of any injury suffered or damage to property: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have the Headmaster and DSL been informed: \_\_\_\_\_

Have parents been informed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parental response: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Next steps for prevention or learning points: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

