Waverley Primary School

Child Restraint Policy

This policy has been drawn up in response to the New Guidance on the Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils by the DCSF – please make reference to Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

1. The law on the Use of Force

1.1 The law states that a member of school staff may use such force as is reasonable in circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to; cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any persons including himself [sic] or others; committing any offence (or doing something that would be a criminal act if the child was of the age of criminal responsibility) or prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school during a teaching session or otherwise.

1.2 All adults in school are advised that they are not required by the school to restrain children under any circumstances.

1.3 There remains a common law and child protection ‘duty of care’ upon all adults in school to protect the wellbeing of all children within school, and to intervene as they personally feel appropriate in any given set of circumstances. The power of restraint operates in addition to this common law duty of care and in addition also to the common law power of any citizen to use reasonable force in self–defence.

1.4 Schools also have the power to be able to use force under the Violent Crime Reduction Act to search pupils without consent (designated safeguarding persons only).

2. Waverley Primary School’s position regarding the use of Force/Restraint

2.1 Staff at Waverley Primary School accept that physical restraint is only used as a last resort when the action is in self–defence; where there is a developing risk of injury; significant damage to property; or where a pupil is behaving in a way that is compromising good order and discipline. Other strategies and techniques will be used before the application of restraint. Please refer to Waverley Primary School’s Behaviour Policy for further information on our behaviour expectations and the means by which we seek to reduce the likelihood of situations occurring where the use of force may be necessary.

2.2 All school staff are authorised to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils. These are:

- Teachers
• Teaching Assistants
• Learning Support Assistants
• Mid-day Supervisors
• Nursery Nurses or Assistants

2.3 Examples of situations where reasonable force might be appropriate are as follows:

• When a pupil attacks a member of staff
• When pupils are fighting
• When a pupil is deliberately damaging property
• When a pupil is causing or at risk of causing damage or injury by accident, by rough play or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects
• When a pupil is behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting a lesson
• When a pupil persistently refuses to leave an area

2.4 The power to restrain pupils applies on the school premises or elsewhere when under school control.

2.5 Any physical intervention used will always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

2.6 If a member of staff becomes aware of a situation that is developing, the following steps should be taken in line with the school's Behaviour Policy:

• Tell the pupil to stop, and inform them of the consequences should they continue
• Warn the child that physical restraint will be used if they do not do as they are asked
• Keep calm and do not give the impression you have lost your temper
• Send for assistance
• Send other children away if possible
• Tell the pupil that you are restraining him/her to avoid the pupil harming themselves, others or property. Where potential witnesses are present it is helpful if they hear you give this explanation
• Physical intervention should be an act of care and control
• Use only the minimum of force necessary
• Attempt to communicate with the child throughout the incident
• Be sensitive of your own strength and body weight and to issues of gender
• Inform the Headteacher /DHT or member of the SLT if they have not be involved.
• Record the incident fully in the incident book

2.7 Appropriate force includes:

• Physically interposing between pupils
• Blocking the pupils path
• Holding
• Leading a pupil by the hand or arm
• Shepherding a pupil away

2.8 Waverley Primary School will ensure that staff are aware of any individual behavior plans or specific needs of pupils, especially for any pupils with disabilities, which may impact on the range, type and appropriateness of any physical intervention.

2.10 Detailed written reports will document any occasion where force is used. This includes:

• Recorded in the Pastoral log
• Date/Time/Place
• Pupil involved
• Reason force is used
• Details of the incident
• Pupil’s response
• Outcome of the incident
• Any injuries sustained
• Identities of witnesses

2.11 The Headteacher will keep such written information securely and monitor the use of restraint. He/she may also be the first to exercise judgment on whether the restraint used was reasonable, having made initial enquiries, although other procedures will apply if queries or complaints arise.

2.12 The Headteacher will advise the parent/guardian of any incident involving their child either immediately or at the end of the day according to the seriousness of the incident.

2.13 Where a member of staff is assaulted or suffers injury as a consequence of using reasonable force to restraint they are advised to contact their professional organization or trade union.

3. Touching in Other Circumstances

3.1 Waverley Primary School recognises that touch can often be an effective communication tool. For Example:

• When demonstrating a PE skill
• When providing first aid
• Comforting a child in distress
• When supporting a child with SEN
• When giving praise or congratulations

3.2 In such situations, staff will apply sound professional judgment – touch will be appropriate and will avoid situations or contract that could be misinterpreted.

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