



# RESTRAINT POLICY

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|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Status              | To be Approved at FGB<br>July 2025 | Approval             | Full Governing Body |
| Maintenance         | Strategy Committee                 | Role(s) responsible  | Deputy Headteacher  |
| Date Effective      | March 2017                         | Date of last reviews | July 2025           |
| Date of next review | September 2026                     | Date withdrawn       | Not withdrawn       |

## COLTON HILLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

### Rationale

To provide a simple policy conforming to national regulations and best practice which states clearly the accepted uses of physical intervention and restraint at Colton Hills Community School. To protect all members of the school.

### Definitions

**Physical Intervention:** is physical action to restrict the actions of another. Physical intervention can include actions, such as blocking an exit, that do not involve direct person-to-person contact.

**Holding or Restraint** is the use of direct physical contact to restrict the actions of another.

**Staff:** Any employees that are given the authority to be in charge of students by the Headteacher. All such employees are subject to follow the guidance in this policy, (this includes all staff who work with students and other staff who work in the school).

**Reasonable Force:** This legal term has two components.

1. The circumstances of a particular event have to warrant restraint (in other words not be trivial in the eyes of the law).
2. The degree of force must be proportionate. It is further expected that a professional teacher will tend to exercise the minimum force necessary when dealing with students.

### Use of Restraint and Physical Intervention

The use of force as a punishment is unlawful.

- These are the circumstances where such action may be used:
  1. Harm directed towards others
  2. Harm which is self-directed
  3. Dangerous disregard for the safety of self or others
  4. Serious damage to property

### The concept of 'reasonable force' applies in these circumstances.

- Where restraint or physical intervention is used it must be proportionate to the circumstance. For example, damage to property would need to be significant and continued to justify restraint (like smashing windows and continuing to do so - not writing on a desk). The legitimate use of restraint or physical intervention due to damage to property is rare (remember 'reasonable force').
- The degree and duration of any restraint or physical intervention must not exceed that which is necessary to prevent any actual or imminent injury or damage.
- Simple intervention should be used such as leading a student away. More restrictive holds require training and even then would only be used in the most exceptional of circumstances.
- Staff should not put themselves at risk.



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## Other Circumstances

- At Colton Hills Community School our policy is that staff shall not use methods of physical contact to restrain students or force their compliance in any other circumstances - unless additional factors make it reasonable. Staff must understand that the school does not have a “no contact” policy as this would put staff in breach of their duty of care toward a pupil and possibly prevent them taking the action needed to prevent a pupil causing harm.
- Where students’ behaviour compromises good order and discipline, a member of staff may stand in their path – they may put out an arm to encourage a student not to pass, however they should not put themselves at risk of physical assault and enable space for a child to walk past. If the student chooses to disobey, they cannot be held back – unless other circumstances make it reasonable.
- In such circumstances the event must be reported to a member of the pastoral team so that appropriate sanctions can be put into place.

## After Restraint Has Been Used

- The episode must be reported without delay to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The member of staff involved will be asked to complete a written report. (See appendix 1.)
- The DSL will keep records of the event and follow up the event as appropriate.
- The DSL will inform parents of serious incidents.
- The DSL will keep the Head Teacher informed of all instances of restraint being used.

## Dealing With Complaints

- The DSL will hear complaints from parents / students regarding physical intervention. The DSL will keep records. If the complaint is against the DSL the Deputy Head Teacher responsible for complaints will investigate the complaint.
- The Headteacher will be informed of the complaint.
- If a complaint has been made that is not deemed trivial and is an allegation of excessive or inappropriate use of force, then the Local Authority Safeguarding Team will be informed.
- The complaint and the result of the investigation will be reported to school governors.

## Links

### 1. **The Child Protection Policy**

- *Our Child Protection policy also outlines the legitimate circumstances in which physical intervention can be used against a student.*
- *The policy states that whenever restraint is used it shall be reported to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection. This is to protect staff and students and to monitor the frequency of such situations.*

### 2. **The Grey Book (copy on T Drive)**

- *This outlines the agreed conditions and terms under which LEA employees should act. It also summarises the law and the guidelines that exist in this area. This policy is an interpretation of that information for Colton Hills Community School.*

### 3. **Wolverhampton Safeguarding and Child Protection Guidance for Schools.**

- This outlines when child protection procedures must be used in connection with allegations of physical abuse against members of staff.