

At Devizes School, we are committed to a positive behaviour policy which encourages students to make positive behaviour choices. On rare occasions a situation arises that requires some form of physical intervention by staff. Our policy for physical intervention is based upon the following principles:-

- Physical intervention should be used only as a last resort when other appropriate strategies have failed.
- Any physical contact should be only the minimum required.
- Physical intervention must be used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.
- Incidents must be recorded and reported to the Headteacher as soon as possible
- Parents will be informed of each incident

1. The Legal Framework

Section 93 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 allows 'teachers and other persons who are authorised by the Head Teacher who have control or charge of students to use such force as is reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent a student from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:-

- causing injury to his/herself or others
- committing an offence
- damaging property
- prejudicing the maintenance of good order & discipline

2. Our approach

At Devizes School we aim to avoid the need for physical intervention and regard this as a last resort in maintaining safety in the school. We always aim to deal with behaviour using a positive approach and therefore this policy should be read in connection with our Positive Behaviour Policy (S9).

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate and staff will have to exercise their own judgement in situations which arise within the above categories.

3. Use of physical restraint

Physical restraint should be applied as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allowing the student to regain self-control. It should never take a form which could be seen as punishment.

When physical restraint becomes necessary:

Staff should:

- Consider whether to intervene or not, taking into account their own safety
- Tell the student what they are doing and why
- Use the minimum force necessary
- Involve another member of staff if possible
- Tell the student what s/he must do in order to remove the restraint (this may need frequent repetition)
- Use simple and clear language
- Relax the restraint in response to the student's compliance

Staff should not:

- Act in temper

- Involve themselves in a prolonged verbal exchange with the student
- Involve other students in the restraint
- Touch or hold the student in a way that could be viewed as sexually inappropriate conduct
- Use physical restraint or intervention as a punishment

4. Actions after an incident

Physical restraint often occurs in response to highly charged emotional situations and there is a clear need for debriefing after the incident, both for the staff involved and the student. **The head teacher should be informed of any incident as soon as possible** and will take responsibility for making arrangements for debriefing once the situation has stabilised. An appropriate member of the teaching staff should always be involved in debriefing the student involved and any victims of the incident should be offered support, and their parents informed.

All incidents should be recorded immediately on the Devizes School Restraint Report Form (attached). All sections of this report should be completed so that any patterns of behaviour can be identified and addressed. In the event of any future complaint or allegation this record will provide essential and accurate information.

A copy should be filed in the student's appropriate file and in a central school file in order to inform individual and school risk assessments.

Parents will be contacted as soon as possible after an incident, normally on the same day, to inform them of the actions that were taken and why, and to provide them with an opportunity to discuss it.

5. Risk Assessments

If the school become aware that a student is likely to behave in a disruptive way that may require the use of reasonable force, we will plan how to respond if the situation arises by completing a risk assessment form. This will address:

- Strategies to be used prior to intervention
- Ways of avoiding 'triggers' if these are known
- Involvement of parents to ensure that they are clear about the specific action the school might need to take
- Briefing of staff to ensure they know exactly what action they should be taking (this may identify a need for training or guidance)
- Identification of additional support that can be summoned if appropriate
- The school's duty of care to all students and staff

6. Complaints and Allegations

A clear restraint policy, adhered to by all staff and shared with parents, should help to avoid complaints from parents. It is unlikely to prevent all complaints, however, and a dispute about the use of force by a member of staff might lead to an investigation, either under the complaints disciplinary or allegation management procedures.

This policy needs to read alongside the school's Equality and Safeguarding Statements and the following policies:

- Positive Behaviour Policy (S9)
- Child Protection Policy (S11)
- SEND Policy (S22)
- Health and Safety Policy (S18)
- Advice to staff regarding allegations of abuse/ negligence (S6)
- Complaints procedure (S24)

Date agreed by SLT: 16 Apr 13

Date approved by the Student Welfare Committee: 2 Jul 13

Date approved/adopted by the Governing Body: 3 Jul 13

Date for Review:

DEVIZES SCHOOL

RECORD OF PHYSICAL INTERVENTION OR RESTRAINT

Date of incident:

Time of incident:

Student's Name:

D.o.B:

Member(s) of staff involved:

Adult witnesses to restraint:

Student witnesses to restraint:

Outline of event leading to restraint:

Outline of incident of restraint (including restraint method used):

Outcome of restraint:

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Description of any injury(ies) sustained by injured student and any subsequent treatment:

Date parent/carer informed of incident:

Time:

By whom informed:

Outline of parent/carer response:

Brief description of any subsequent inquiry/complaint or action:

Signature of staff completing report: Date:

Signature of Headteacher: Date: