

 <p>Rushcliffe School</p>	USE OF REASONABLE FORCE	
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<i>NB Uncontrolled when printed</i>		

DFE Guidance on the use of Reasonable Force remains generally unchanged.

The use of Force will depend on each situation and will still be judged on its merits dependent on the staff and young people involved, the environment and the potential risk associated with **not** using reasonable force.

Head Teachers already have the power to use reasonable force when

- there was risk to themselves, others and the pupil,
- serious damage to property
- where behaviour is prejudicial to good order and discipline, it will be for head teachers to decide when this is the case.

The key significant difference is high-lighted above around the need to report to parents when reasonable force has been used. Rushcliffe School, however **will contact parents** as to not inform parents may be viewed as unhelpful and could compromise the good relationships between school and home.

The new guidance makes clear:

- Schools should not have a 'no touch' policy. It is often necessary or desirable for a teacher to touch a child (e.g. dealing with accidents or teaching musical instruments).
- Teachers have a legal power to use reasonable force. They can use force to remove a pupil who is disrupting a lesson or to prevent a child leaving a classroom.

The powers of staff to use reasonable force remain the same. Staff may intervene with pupils when there is a risk to self, others, or property or when there is an issue of discipline or control. The actions of staff must be proportionate to the risk they are managing and be in line with local and national guidance and be defensible in the eyes of the law. Staff actions must be in line with the General Teaching Council's code of conduct and practice that sets out expectations for staff in schools.

- **Students should not be placed on the floor unless staff have received specialist, accredited training.**
- The member of staff involved should advise the young person calmly and repeatedly that he/she could stop the need for restraint by applying self-control.
- The young person should be released from restraint as soon as it is safely possible.
- Staff should avoid any actions that could be viewed as sexual.

- If restraint is required for an extended period because the child cannot be released safely a senior member of staff must monitor the situation closely with a view to safeguarding the young person and the staff concerned.
- As far as possible actions should be calculated to reduce the need for restraint or, when restraint is used, to reduce the length of time for which it is necessary.
- The pupil will be examined by a trained first aider after the use of restraint if there is any cause for concern/injury.

The following actions are deemed as unreasonable or unsafe and must not be used:-

- any hold that restricts a person's breathing
- exerting excessive pressure on any part of a young person's body;
- forcing a young person's arm up his/her back;
- sitting on a child/ young person;
- lifting a child/young person off the floor in order to intimidate.

The following are also prohibited as forms of control:

- corporal restriction of liberty (e.g. locking a child or young person up);
 - restriction or refusal of visits/communication;
 - requiring the wearing of distinctive or inappropriate clothing. fines;
 - intimate physical searches.
- Existing pupil management procedures are aimed at preventing violence and aggression
 - Early emphasis is on managing the incident through non-physical strategies. In line with Managing Pupils Positively Policy.
 - Only in the event of failure of established classroom protocols to bring control to the situation, or imminent danger to persons, should physical restraint be considered.
 - Strategies which inform young people of their behaviour and offering alternative outcomes have been developed over time and are integral parts of the behaviour of adults providing support.

Recording incidents will be routine.

- Incident Recording Forms are held in the Pupil Support Unit.
- These should be passed to the Head Teacher or other member of the Senior Leadership Team as soon as practicable.
- A copy should also be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Person.

Useful sources of information:

Use of Reasonable Force in Schools – **Department for Education** (updated 2012)

Behaviour and Discipline in Schools – New Guidance. Summary of DFE Guidance Papers September 2011. – **Education Improvement Service (Nottscc)**

Keeping Classrooms Safe for Teaching and Learning (Physical Intervention Policy) – **Nottinghamshire County Council**

Managing Pupils Positively (Behaviour Management Policy) **Rushcliffe School**

Review of the Recording and Reporting of the Use of Force in Schools.- **Charlie Taylor** July 2011