

**Valley Road Primary School**  
**Use of Force and Restraint Policy**  
October 2018

At Valley Road School we believe that the use of reasonable force is only necessary to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing a criminal offence
- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property, including their own
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in the classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere.

The use of restraint should always be a last resort. If practical before intervention, a calm warning or instruction to stop should be given and every effort should be made to achieve a satisfactory outcome without physical intervention.

**In all circumstances help must be sent for, even when immediate intervention is necessary.**

Restraint can take a variety of forms. Staff should always avoid touching/holding a pupil in a way that might be considered inappropriate.

Force, where used, should always be reasonable. There is no definition of 'reasonable force' it should always be proportional to the circumstances of the incident. It should be used only to control or restrain and never with the intent to cause pain or harm. It must, therefore, be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result. In any action, due regard has to be taken to the age, understanding and sex of the pupil.

**The school accepts and understands that in accordance with the law corporal punishment is forbidden.**

Staff other than teachers and volunteer helpers are also able to use force if necessary, provided they have been authorised by the head teacher to have control or charge of pupils. People with such authorisation might include teaching assistants, midday supervisors, specialist support assistants, education welfare officers, people accompanying pupils on visits, etc.

### **Records**

Detailed and up-to-date records are kept of any incidents where force is used. It is always advisable to inform parents of such an incident and to allow an opportunity to discuss it. Records of incidents include the following information:

- the name(s) of the pupil(s) involved
- when and where the incident took place
- why the use of force was deemed necessary
- details of the incident, including all steps taken to diffuse the situation and resolve it without force and the nature of the force used
- the pupil's response
- the outcome of the incident

- a description of any injuries suffered by the pupil or others and/or any property damaged during the incident.