

Toll Bar Primary School

Control and Restraint of Pupil's Policy

1. Introduction

This policy is based on the idea that physically restraining pupils will be as a last resort and occur rarely and only when there is no alternative in their's and other's interests and safety. Physical restraint should only be used where behaviours are such that they will have a direct impact on the safety of the pupil, of others, where there is a risk of damage to property or where there is serious disruption.

Toll Bar Primary School recognises the importance of placing its policy on physical restraint within the context of its whole-school approach to behaviour and discipline. This school's behaviour policy sets out the steps taken within school to positively promote and encourage good behaviour amongst pupils; is specific about what behaviour is expected of pupils and what is unacceptable and sets out the range of progressive sanctions and steps which staff might feel it becomes necessary to apply.

The school also recognises the very real difficulties which staff can sometimes be faced with in their day to day dealings with pupils on matters involving behaviour and discipline. The school's approach to the issue of physical restraint is that:

2. Aims & Objectives

- Pupils are entitled to a safe and secure environment in which the highest value is placed on learning how to behave appropriately towards others.
- Staff are also entitled to a safe and secure environment and have a right to personal support and guidance about what is expected of them in difficult situations.

3. Training

All staff may physically restrain pupils to protect the pupils or themselves without having received formal training according to LA documentation. The school has trained staff in Teamteach to approach behaviour management and interventions.

4. Implementation

The school has a duty of care to all its pupils. Staff will therefore be required to act in a manner which safeguards and promotes the welfare of their pupils, and to do everything reasonable that is within their power to protect the child from harm, from harming others or from causing serious damage to property.

In exceptional circumstances the carrying out of this responsibility may conceivably involve the use of reasonable force in accordance with the school's policy to physically control or restrain a pupil whose behaviour lies well beyond the usual boundaries of self-control.

Physical restraint should at no time be used as a threat, a punishment to the pupil, or to force compliance with staff instructions when there is no risk of injury or serious harm to property.

Physical restraint will only be used in the following circumstances:

- The child is attempting to harm himself/herself or his /her actions may result in harm.
- There is a risk of physical injury to a member of staff or a member of the public.
- Damage to property is being caused.
- It is the judgement of the member of staff that there is a serious risk of any of the above happening unless immediate actions is taken.
- The child is engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline in the school.

Wherever possible, staff should exhaust a range of appropriate behaviour management strategies aimed at preventing the situation from reaching the point at which physical intervention becomes considered, for example, discussion, persuasion, a brief period of withdrawal from the main group. Restraint will therefore only be used as a last resort after all other agreed avenues to defuse and de-escalate the situation have been pursued or where staff feel that immediate action is required. Children can have time out of the classroom in the blue room.

Once a member of staff has decided to intervene physically in order to prevent injury occurring to any person, or serious damage to property, then he/she should:

- Give clear instruction warning the pupil that unless he/she conforms then physical restraint will be applied.
- Calmly explain to the pupil that staff are unable to allow him/her to damage or hurt others, once they have calmed down and is no longer posing a threat then the restraint will cease.
- Summon help from another member of staff, to assist and where possible one other to act as a witness.
- Use only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage, and apply for the minimum amount of time.
- Gradually relax the restraint as soon as it is judged safe to do so, to allow the child to regain self control.
- Reassure the pupil that no harm will follow.

Both pupil and the adult should be given time to recover, acknowledging that emotional distress takes longer to subside than physical symptoms.

Immediately following an incident, with due consideration given to the safety of other staff and pupils and the good order and discipline in the unit, staff involved will be given the opportunity to take time out.

5. Monitoring, evaluation and review

Following an episode of staff intervention, the staff concerned must report the incident to the Headteacher or the Coordinator. It is important that details of the positive handling are recorded as soon as possible using the intervention forms. It is advisable that the recording and reporting takes place before the member of staff leaves the school premises on the day the incident occurs.

A record of the incident will then be noted in the Intervention Book by the Head or Deputy Head. Following any incident every effort will be made to allow staff to reflect and discuss what happened and why and assess future implications for the management of the pupil and their behaviour.

Where an AIR 1 form has been completed in relation to the restraint a serious incident form should be completed and attached to a copy of the reverse side of the record.

If possible discussion should take place between senior management, staff and pupil directly involved to encourage the pupil to face up to the problem and its consequences. If at all possible such a meeting may include parents.

The Head teacher will monitor the use of restraint, including consideration of:

- The appropriateness of physical intervention
- The attempts at defusing situations
- Correct post-restraint procedures have been carried out
- The need for individual behaviour management plans
- The need for INSET/training for staff

The Head teacher will ensure that reports of incidents are correctly reported.

Date of last Review February 2010
Date of next Review: February 2012

Signed

Chair of Governors