



An E-ACT academy

DSL V

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E-ACT

Use of Reasonable Force and Physical Constraint Policy

1. Scope

- 1.1 This policy applies to Academy staff and Academy governors. A copy of this policy can be found on the Academy's website and is available on request. The policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required.

2. Policy statement

- 2.1 In order to maintain the safety and welfare of our pupils, it may sometimes be necessary to use reasonable force on a pupil, as permitted by law.

- 2.2 This policy has been written in accordance with the Department for Education guidance *Use of reasonable force: advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies* and takes account of the Academy's public sector equality duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

3. Use of reasonable force

- 3.1 Any use of force by staff will be reasonable, proportionate and lawful. Reasonable force will be used only when immediately necessary and for the minimum time necessary to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following:

committing a criminal offence

injuring themselves or others

causing damage to property, including their own

engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to good order and discipline at the Academy or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in a classroom or elsewhere.

- 3.2 Force will never be used as a punishment.

- 3.3 Circumstances in which force might be used include the following:

- Pupils found fighting will be physically separated.
- Pupils who refuse to leave a room when instructed to do so may be physically removed.
- Restraint may be used to prevent a pupil leaving a classroom where allowing him or her to do so would risk their safety or lead to disruptive behaviour.
- Pupils at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts will be physically restrained.

4 Staff training

- 4.1 All members of staff will receive training about the use of reasonable force appropriate to their role to enable them to carry out their responsibilities. This will include training on any restraint techniques which must not be used because they are known to present an unacceptable risk when used on children and young people.

- 4.2 Additional and refresher training will be provided where necessary.

5 Disabilities and special educational needs

- 5.1 Those exercising the power to use reasonable force will take into account any Special Educational Needs (**SEN**) or disabilities a pupil may have. Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure that a disabled pupil is not treated less favourably than other pupils because of his / her disability.
- 5.2 The SEN Co-ordinator, Ben Wilson (Senior and Sixth Form) and Rob Gater (Primary and Nursery) will discuss the needs of such pupils with the parents and the members of staff who work with them to ensure that clear guidelines are in place as to the pupil's needs and when physical intervention may be necessary.
- 5.3 If physical restraint is likely to be necessary because of a pupil's disability or Special Educational Needs, a written plan will be put in place following consultation with the parents setting out the techniques that should normally be used, taking into account the pupil's statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care plan where appropriate.
- 5.4 The Academy will ensure that all members of staff involved with such pupils have received the appropriate training to enable them to carry out their responsibilities.

6 Recording and reporting incidents

- 6.1 Where a member of staff is involved in any incident in which force is used on a pupil, he / she should report the incident to [• the Deputy Principal]. Serious incidents involving force will be recorded in writing by [• the Deputy Principal] and monitored on a regular basis to evaluate the Academy's policy and procedures and assess training requirements.
- 6.2 While the Academy is not required to obtain the consent of parents to use force on a pupil, parents will be informed of serious incidents involving the use of force. In the EYFS setting, the pupil's parents will be informed about any use of reasonable force on the day of the incident or as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 6.3 Any complaints about the use of force will be investigated in accordance with the Academy's complaints procedures. Please see Academy's Parental Concerns and Complaints Policy.