

PERRYMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL



Perrymount Primary School
Growing together, learning forever.

Positive Handling Policy

Autumn 2024 – review date Autumn 2027

POSITIVE HANDLING POLICY

This policy provides the framework through which we will exercise our duty of care for all our pupils and staff. It relates to the aims and values of the school which are embedded in the strong inclusive ethos of Perrymount.

Introduction

This policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils, and for volunteers working within the school, to explain the school's arrangements for the care and control of pupils presenting very challenging behaviour. Children who present with challenging behaviour make special demands on schools. Examples of such behaviours include violence towards other pupils or staff, self-injury, actions performed with reckless disregard for safety and deliberate damage to property.

At Perrymount all staff are authorised to use reasonable force within the context of the Education and Inspection Act, 2006 – The Use of Reasonable Force to Control and Restrain Pupils.

Purpose

Good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure good order in our school. It is recognised that the majority of pupils in our school respond positively to the school's discipline and behaviour policy and control practised by staff. This ensures the well-being and safety of all pupils, staff and visitors to our school. It is acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances staff may need to take action in situations where the use of reasonable force may be required.

Underpinning values

It is recognised that everyone attending, working or visiting Perrymount has a right to:

- recognition of their unique identity
- be treated with respect and dignity
- learn and work in a safe environment
- be protected from harm, violence, assault and acts of verbal abuse

Pupils and their parents/carers have a right to:

- individual consideration of pupil needs by the staff who have responsibility for their care and protection
- expect staff to undertake their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the School's core values and policies
- be informed about school rules, relevant policies and the expected conduct of all pupils and staff working in the School
- be informed about the School's complaints procedure

Implications of the Policy

The Education and Inspection Act, 2006, stipulates that reasonable force may be used to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school among any of its pupils, whether the behaviour occurs in a classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere within the school, including authorised out-of-school activities
- self-injuring
- causing injury to others
- committing an offence

The use of positive handling should avert these dangers by preventing or deflecting the child's action. It is the positive application of force with the intention of protecting the child from harming himself or others or seriously damaging property.

The application of any form of physical control places staff in a vulnerable situation. It can only be justified according to the circumstances described in this Policy. Staff, therefore, have a responsibility to follow the guidance and to seek alternative strategies wherever possible in order to prevent the need for physical intervention.

It is important to safeguard your own actions in any case where reasonable force is used. Members of staff must never act alone in dealing with extreme circumstances and best practice is to have another member of staff present to ensure the safety of all concerned.

Reasonable force will only be used as a last resort when all other behaviour management strategies as set out in our discipline policy have failed or when pupils, staff or property are at risk.

What is reasonable force?

(DFE guidance – Use of reasonable force 2013)

- The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
- Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
- 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.
- Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.
- School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

Who can use reasonable force?

- All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force
- This power applies to any member of staff at the school. It can also apply to people whom the headteacher has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.

When can reasonable force be used?

- Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.
- In a school, force is used for two main purposes – to control pupils or to restrain them.
- The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

(See Appendix 1)

In extreme situations trained members of staff will be called upon.

At Perrymount trained members of staff are;

Nina Wilson	Ben Santamaria	Pam Lanyero
Angela Webb	Paula Cooke	Celia Grossett
Michelle Coore Hamilton	Natalie Chant	

Schools can use reasonable force to:

- remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and
- restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

When having to use positive handling the member of staff should:

- Tell the pupil what you are doing and why.
- Use the minimum force necessary.
- Involve another member of staff as quickly as possible.
- Tell the pupil what they must do for you to remove the restraint (this may need frequent repetition).
- Use simple and clear language.
- Relax your restraint in response to pupil's compliance.
- Keep calm.

Reporting and Recording

Where physical control or restraint has been used, the staff member must immediately report it to the Headteacher. Parent/s must be informed of the action that has been taken. A record of the incident is recorded and kept in the Incident Reports folder in the Headteacher's office. All staff involved must sign the report as soon as possible after the incident. (See Appendix 2)

Monitoring

The Headteacher will ensure that each incident is reviewed and investigated further as required. If further action is required in relation to a member of staff or a pupil, this will be pursued through the relevant policies and procedures.

Supporting documents

Other documents that support this policy are:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

Review

This Policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

**APPENDIX 1
PERRYMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL
RESTRAINT GUIDELINES**

- Force should only be used if there is immediate danger to pupils, staff or property.
- Force must only be used if all other strategies have failed.
- Force used must be of minimum strength and duration.
- The use of force to control or restrain pupils must never be used as a punishment.
- Never hold a pupil by the neck, collar, ear or hair.
- Never twist limbs or hold a pupil face down on the floor.

Action to be taken

- Give a clear warning to the pupil(s) that force may have to be used.
- Keep yourself and other pupils safe. Remove other pupils from the scene if necessary.
- Do not put yourself at risk by confronting pupils who pose a threat to your safety.
- Talk to the pupil calmly and explain that the restraint will cease as soon as they calm down.
- Send for help as soon as possible.
- Complete an incident record form and /or CS2 within 1 working day.
- If necessary, seek advice following an incident from a senior colleague and/or your trade union.

APPENDIX 2
PERRYMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL
USE OF FORCE TO CONTROL OR RESTRAIN PUPILS: INCIDENT RECORD

Section 1 (to be completed by member of staff involved in restraint)

Name of pupil(s) on whom force was used by a member of staff
Date
Time
Location
Staff involved (directly or as witnesses)
Details of other pupils involved (directly or as witnesses)
Description of incident, including any attempts to de-escalate and warnings given that force might be used
Reason for using force and description of force used
Any injury suffered to staff or pupils and any first aid required
Signature of member of staff
Date

Section 2 (to be completed by Headteacher / Deputy Head)

Follow up by Headteacher/Deputy Head
Information shared with external agencies
When/how parents were informed and any views they expressed.
Signature of Headteacher Date