THE PREBENDAL SCHOOL

A6_REASONABLE RESTRAINT POLICY

This Policy is applicable to all pupils, including those in the EYFS and Boarding

Physical Contact

The nature of physical contact should be limited to only what is appropriate.

Physical Restraint

Physical restraint or intervention should only be used where necessary.

Staff are advised to:

- attempt to deal with the situation through strategies other than restraint;
- use restraint only when other methods have failed;
- tell the pupil to stop and explain the consequences of failing to comply;
- make it clear that physical contact/restraint will stop as soon as the pupil complies with the instructions of the staff.

Situations in which physical intervention or restraint may be necessary

The kinds of situations where reasonable force might be necessary are as follows:

- a pupil attacks a member of staff;
- pupils are fighting;
- a pupil is in danger of injuring himself/herself;
- a pupil is causing, or at risk of causing injury or damage by accident (e.g. by rough play or the misuse of dangerous materials/objects);
- a pupil is running along the corridor or on a stairway in a way which might cause an accident or injury to him/herself or others;

01.04.17/01.04.18/HM/P
- a pupil is engaged in, or about to commit, deliberate damage or vandalism to property;
- a pupil absconds from a class or tries to leave the school and could be at risk if not kept there.

**Recording incidents**

Immediately following an incident where force is used, it should be reported orally to the Head Master, Deputy Head or Head of Pre-Prep and a written report provided as soon as possible afterwards. The written report should include:

1. the name(s) of the pupil(s) involved, and when and where the incident took place;
2. the names of any staff or pupils who witnessed the incident;
3. the reason that restraint was necessary;
4. how the incident began and progressed including details of:
   - the pupil’s behaviour and what was said by each of the parties.
   - the steps taken to calm/defuse the situation.
   - the degree of restraint used, how it was applied and for how long.
   - the pupil’s response and the outcome of the incident.
   - details of any injury suffered by the pupil and the others, and of any damage to property
5. Parents must be informed the same day or as soon as is practicably possible

**Definition of ‘reasonable force’**

There is no legal definition of ‘reasonable force.’ It always depends in the circumstances of the case. There are three relevant considerations which must be taken into account –

- the use of force can be regarded as *reasonable* only if all the particular circumstances warrant it – otherwise it is unlawful; therefore, physical force must not be used to prevent a trivial misdemeanour (such as dropping litter);
- the degree of force used must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour (or the consequences it is intended to prevent);
- the age, understanding and the gender of the pupil.

Under NO circumstances is it permissible to:
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- hold pupil around neck, or by the collar, or in any way that might restrict the pupil’s ability to breathe;
- slap, punch or kick a pupil;
- twist or force limbs against a joint;
- trip-up a pupil;
- hold or pull a pupil by the hair or the ear;
- hold face down on the ground.

Always try and take a calm, measured approach to a situation and never give the impression of having lost your temper, acting out of anger or frustration or punishing a pupil.

**Corporal Punishment**

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT MUST NOT BE ADMINISTERED IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

No physical contact should be used which is deliberately intended to punish, or to cause pain, injury or humiliation.