



# Physical Restraint and Intervention Policy

Hylands School

|                            | Date         | Review frequency/comments |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| This issue                 | January 2016 |                           |
| Approved by                | BMC          |                           |
| Ratified by Governing Body | 20/01/2016   |                           |
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## Principles

Hylands School was built to serve the community in which it is placed. Accordingly, we are a comprehensive, community school with a clearly defined catchment area and cater for pupils of all abilities.

**Physical restraint should be limited to emergency situations and used only a last resort.**

## The definition of restraint at Hylands Academy

Physical Restraint is the positive application of force with the intention of protecting the Student from harming themselves or others including property.

## The Aims of this Policy are to

- To explain the Legal Framework.
- To explain the circumstances that physical restraint may be justified.
- To explain the rights of staff to search students when necessary.
- Do's and Do nots when using physical restraint.

## The Legal Framework

Under the Children Order 1995 it is only permissible as described under the heading (Physical Control) Article 4 of the Educational Order 1998 clarifies powers that already exist in common law. It enables teachers and other members of staff in the school, authorised by the Head Teacher to use such force as is reasonable in circumstances to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing an offence.
- Causing personal injury to or damage to property of any person (including the pupil).
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among its pupils, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

## Examples of when Physical Restraint may be justified

- A pupil attacks a member of staff or another pupil.
- A pupil is causing, or at risk of causing injury or damage by rough play or accident by misuse of dangerous materials – substances or objects.
- If there is need to restrain a student with known behavioural difficulties, ONLY staff trained in appropriate restraint techniques should attempt to restrain such students.



## When physical restraint becomes necessary

### Do:

- Tell the student what you are doing and why.
- Use minimum force as required.
- Involve another member of staff.
- Position yourself when possible in view of the CCTV.
- Use simple and clear language.
- Hold limbs above major joints if possible.
- Relax your restraint when possible.

### Don't:

- Involve students in the restraint.
- Touch or hold the student's private parts.
- Twist or force limbs.
- Pull hair / bend fingers / scratch / punch / kick or trip student.
- Hold the student in a position that may cause restrictions to blood flow or breathing.
- Lose temper.

## The rights of Staff to search students

- The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 gives the Headteacher, and any member of the School staff authorised by the Head teacher, who has reasonable grounds for believing that the student may have with him/her or in his/her possession a knife or offensive weapon the right to search that student.
- The Headteacher must ensure that the person carrying out the search is of the same sex as the student and the search must be carried out in the presence of another adult also the same sex as the student.
- The student cannot be required to remove any clothing other than outer clothing and if the students possessions are searched this must also be carried out in the presence of another adult.
- The Headteacher cannot require the school staff to conduct the searches only 'authorise' them to do so. But they may 'require' security staff to carry out the searches.
- If a search reveals any 'offensive weapons' or knives, or evidence in relation to an offence the school MUST inform the police immediately. The school has no discretion in this, not even if the school wish to resort solely to internal disciplinary procedures.



## Physical contact with vulnerable students

Normally all staff avoid physical contact with students, it is accepted that some more vulnerable students and particularly those with special educational needs require more physical contact than other students in order to assist with their everyday learning. Except in an emergency ONLY trained staff should use restraint techniques on vulnerable students with behavioural difficulties and only use techniques that the member of staff has been trained in.

## Actions after an incident

- If the student has special educational needs inform a member of SEN department.
- Inform the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team as soon as possible.
- Notify the Parent/Carer of the student involved within 24 hours.
- Record the incident within 24 hours. (See attached Blank form)

## Risk assessments

If we become aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a disruptive way and that they will require the use of reasonable force, we will then have to put in place a Management of Student Plan tailored to that specific student and that will include:

- Reactive strategies.
- Use of specific holds and calming techniques.
- Parent's involvement and agreement on specific action that the Academy might take.
- Staff briefing to ensure they know exactly what action they should be taking (This may identify the need for certain training and/or guidance).

## Associated Resources

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/behaviourpolices/f0077153/use-of-reasonable-force>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/f0076897/screening>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutfe/advice/f0076882/ensuring-good-behaviour-in-schools/allegations-of-abuse-against-staff>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/operational-policing/pacecodes/?view=Standard&pubID=810826>



## RECORD OF RESTRAINT AND INTERVENTION

| Date   | Time                 | Staff Member Involved       |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|
|  |                      |                             |
| <b>Student(s) Involved</b>   | <b>Tutor Group</b>   | <b>Incident Location</b>    |
|  |                      |                             |
| <b>Student Witnesses</b>   | <b>Adult Witness</b> | <b>Reason for Restraint</b> |
|  |                      |                             |
| <b>Incident leading to Restraint:</b>                                |                      |                             |
|  |                      |                             |
| <b>Restraint Method Used:</b>  |                      |                             |
|  |                      |                             |
| <b>Students Response:</b>  |                      |                             |
|  |                      |                             |
| <b>Description of any injury sustained and subsequent Treatment:</b> |                      |                             |
|  |                      |                             |
| <b>Date / time of Parent or Carer informed and by whom:</b>          |                      |                             |
| <b>Date:</b>   | <b>Time:</b>         | <b>Contacted by:</b>        |