



## CONSTANTINE SCHOOL POLICY ON Positive Handling

Restraint Policy approved: March 2015 updated Nov 2017  
Previous versions approved: 1999, May 2008, Feb 2011, Oct 2013

### PHYSICAL RESTRAINT THE USE OF FORCE TO CONTROL OR RESTRAIN PUPILS

#### INTRODUCTION

This policy is based on guidance outlined "Use of Reasonable Force" July 2013 DFE and links to the 1996 and 1997 Education Acts which clarify the position regarding the use of physical force by teachers and other staff working in schools, to control or restrain pupils. Staff should also refer to the school policy on behaviour and discipline.

#### PART 1

Staff should refer to "Use of Reasonable Force" July 2013 for more detailed advice. This is in the policy folder with this policy and saved in the statutory policy folder on the teachers' site. They should also refer to "Positive Handling in Schools" course handbook available in the Headteacher's office.

At Constantine Primary School we believe that the use of reasonable force is only necessary to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing a criminal offence
- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing significant damage to property, including their own
- Engaging in behaviour at school or on school activities/visits which is prejudicial to the welfare of other pupils or staff

The use of restraint should always be a last resort. If practical before intervention, a calm warning or instruction to stop should be given and every effort should be made to achieve a satisfactory outcome without physical intervention. **In all circumstances help must be sent for, even when immediate intervention is necessary.** Restraint can take a variety of forms - many of which are outlined in the Positive Handling Handbook referred to above and acceptable holds displayed on the noticeboard in the office. Staff should always avoid touching/holding a pupil in a way that might be considered inappropriate.

'Reasonable Force' should not be used for trivial misdemeanours and should always be proportionate to the circumstances of the incident. It should be used only to control or restrain and never with the intent to cause pain or harm. It must, therefore, be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result. In any action due regard has to be taken to the age, understanding and sex of the pupil. Wherever possible any form of restraint will be undertaken by staff trained in Team Teach in line with county guidance for staff.

The school accepts and understands that in accordance with the law corporal punishment is forbidden.

## **PART 2**

Where restraint has been necessary, the incident must be reported to the Headteacher and logged in the schools 'Positive Handling, Incident Report book' (kept in the school office on the notice board).

Parents of the pupils involved will always be advised of an incident and it may be necessary for it to be followed up by other disciplinary action or pastoral support.

All parents will have access to a copy of this policy (THIS CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE OR BY ANY PARENT ASKING TO SEE A PAPER COPY AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE). All new members of staff, lunchtime staff and part time staff will be familiarised with this policy.

Positive Handling staff accredited November 2017 were: Chris Wild, Cags Gilbert, Georgia Paine, Joher Anjari, Gail Newton, Jude Puxley, Charlotte Savage, Jodie Bidgood, Carly Kent, Penny George, Pip Jones, Annabell Moyle, Matt Terry

Pastoral Carer: Mrs C Gilbert

Staff refer to reminders below:

### **REMINDER TO STAFF OF DO's AND DON'Ts**

#### **DO ...**

- Know the procedures within the school's guidelines for the use of physical restraint. A copy of these are available from the Office.
- Discuss these with a senior member of staff if you are unsure of any point.
- Be aware of pupils who have been physically restrained before and what happened.
- Send for adult (Positive Handling Trained) help early if things begin to get out of hand and restraint seems likely.
- Assess the situation before acting:
- Stay calm - do not over-react.

- Use minimum restraint for minimum time.
- Report the incident to the Headteacher or senior member of staff as soon as possible and complete a report form.
- Consult your Professional Association or Trade Union if you have any concerns.
- Remember your professional obligations to all pupils in your care.

**DO NOT ...**

- Place yourself at risk: do not attempt to restrain a pupil who obviously carries a "weapon".
- Attempt to restrain a pupil when you have lost your temper.
- Allow the situation to get out of control.
- Use excessive force.
- Place yourself at risk of false allegation: avoid being alone with any pupil.