

St Benedict's Catholic College



Physical intervention policy

Date reviewed	February 2022
Ratified by governors	March 2022
Date of next review	March 2025

St Benedict's Catholic College

Physical intervention / positive handling policy



1. Introduction

At St Benedict's Catholic College we have high expectations in all that we do including student behaviour. We also recognise our responsibility and duty to care for and support one another as adults and students.

In general it is important that adults working in schools avoid physical contact with students but it is neither desirable nor possible to have a total 'no contact' policy as there are occasions when physical contact, other than reasonable force, with a student is proper and necessary. (e.g. providing first aid, demonstrating use of a musical instrument, demonstrating sports techniques or when comforting a distressed student.¹ One such occasion where contact may be necessary is where there is a need for appropriate physical restraint or the use of reasonable force, both of which are permitted in law (**DfE Use of Reasonable Force Non Statutory Guidance 2013**) to prevent students from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property in such a way that it could cause serious injury to themselves or others or from causing disorder. It is recognised that in practice the use of reasonable force will be a rare event.

The Governing Body is committed to supporting the College policy of 'de-escalation'. De-escalation is defined by the College as '**reducing the intensity of a conflict or potentially violent situation**'. All college staff do everything possible to de-escalate situations as appropriate.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the DfE Searching, screening and confiscation at school guidance and Essex County Council's Understanding and Supporting Behaviour – Safe Practice for Schools and Educational Settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>

<https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Safeguarding/Documents/Understanding%20and%20Supporting%20Behaviour%20-%20Safe%20Practice%20for%20Schools%20-%20Autumn%202020.docx>

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Explain the rights of staff to use reasonable force when necessary
- Explain the nature of reasonable force
- Set out the circumstances in which reasonable force may be justified
- Set out the complaints process

3. Guidelines

3.1 The rights of staff and others

All members of staff have a legal power to use reasonable force² within the limitations of this policy and there may be occasions when failure to do so could breach the duty of care towards students. The college will support staff where a member of staff uses reasonable force within the context of this policy.

¹ (DfE 'Use of Reasonable Force' non- statutory guidance 2013)

² Section 93 - Education and Inspections Act 2006

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Although this power applies to any member of staff at the College; it can also apply to people whom the Principal has temporarily put in charge of students such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a college organised visit.

3.2 What is reasonable force?

Force can be used to either control or restrain. Control means either passive physical contact such as standing between students or blocking a student's path or active physical contact such as leading a student by the arm out of a classroom. Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a student under control and is only used in more extreme circumstances. Regarding both, control and restraint, 'reasonable force' means using no more force than is needed.

3.3 When can reasonable force be used?

Reasonable force can be used to prevent students from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property in such a way that it could cause serious injury to themselves or others or from causing disorder.

The decision on whether or not to use reasonable force is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

There is no need for parental consent prior to using reasonable force. In using reasonable force, reasonable adjustments must be made for students with special educational needs or disabilities

It is not possible to provide a comprehensive list of all the situations in which it might be appropriate to use reasonable force and they will in practice be rare but some examples of where reasonable force may be necessary are to:

- Remove a disruptive student from a classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to leave
- Prevent a student behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a college event
- Prevent a student leaving a classroom where allowing them to leave would seriously risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the learning or behaviour of others
- Prevent a student from harming a member of staff or another student
- Restrain a student at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts
- Physically separate students found fighting

The use of reasonable force to search students without consent is explained in the college search protocol which can be found within the rewards and behaviour policy published on the college website.

4. Complaints

All complaints about the use of force will be investigated thoroughly, speedily and appropriately by a person appointed by the Principal or where appropriate the Chair of Governors

5. Review & monitoring

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Director of Achievement of Behaviour and reviewed by the Governing Body in accordance with the policy and procedures schedule.

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Next Review: Spring 2025

Appendix A

Record of incident Requiring Physical Intervention (RPI)

Child name:	DoB:	Year group:

Reporting member of staff:		
Date of incident:		
Start time of incident:		
End time of incident:		
Location of incident:		
Name(s) of additional staff witness:	Name(s) of additional child witness:	

Stressors leading up to the hyperarousal and distress

Co-regulation prior to the decision to use of RPI			
Verbal advice and support		Swapping of staff	
Calm talking and Reassurance		Distraction/diversion	
Personalised co-regulation script		Offering choices and options	
Humour		Offering safe space	
Other (specify)			

	To prevent harm to self	
	To prevent harm to another child (children)	
	To prevent harm to adults	

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Why the RPI was deemed absolutely necessary	To prevent damage to property	
	To prevent harm from absconding (in accordance with policy)	
The harm predicted to be prevented by the RPI (e.g. bruising to peers, lacerations, destruction of computer, climbing over high fence, climbing on roof)		
Unresolved harm/ details of damage to property (costs and details of harm to people including medical intervention or damage to property)		
Was a medical record completed	Yes / No	

Specific details of the RPI including sequence of techniques, time and staff involved			
Time	Technique		Staff name
Duration of RPI:		Duration of the incident:	
Was there any physical mark or harm caused by the use of RPI to the child?	Yes / No	Details	
What action has been taken?			
Has the incident been reported to the Children Safeguarding Team (Local Authority Designated Officer)?	Yes / No	Details	
Incident reporting and monitoring			
	Name	Time and date	
Incident reported to Senior staff by:			
Parents / Carer verbally informed by:			
Parents / Carer letter sent:			
Child wellbeing check by:			

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Staff wellbeing verified by:		
Restorative conversation with child		

Care for Child following the RPI

Verification of account of incident		
Staff name	Staff signature	Date
Reporting staff name	RPI checker and approver name	
Signature	Signature	