

Ysgol Penmorfa

Policy on Restraining Pupils

Introduction

This policy has been prepared with reference to the Welsh Office Circular 37/98 "The use of reasonable Physical Force to control or Restrain Pupils."

Legal Framework

Section 550A of the Education Act 1996 allows teachers and other persons who are authorised by the Headteacher to have control or charge of pupils, to use reasonable force to prevent a pupil from continuing to do any of the following:

- committing a criminal offence
- causing damage to property
- injuring themselves or others
- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in a classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere.

Restraint may be used when all other methods have failed, but a member of staff should never hit or strike a child.

Situations in which physical intervention may be necessary (As a final option)

The situations where reasonable force might be appropriate:

- pupils fighting
- a pupil causing or at risk of causing deliberate damage to property
- a pupil causing , or at risk of causing injury by accident, by rough play or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects
- a pupil running in a corridor which might cause an accident
- a pupil absconding from a class or trying to leave the school but only if the pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or in the school

Application of Force

Appropriate use of force may involve:

- physically blocking a pupil's path
- holding or leading by the arm
- shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back
- use of classroom furniture to restrict movement

Inappropriate use of force will include:

- holding a pupil around the neck
- slapping punching or kicking a pupil, or striking a pupil with an object
- twisting or forcing limbs against a joint
- tripping up a pupil
- holding or pulling by the hair
- touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered indecent

Strategies other than physical force

- Instruct a pupil to stop
- Explain the consequences of failing to comply
- Keep talking to the pupil explaining that physical restraint will stop once the pupil complies with instructions to stop
- Use a calm, measured approach
- Call for assistance from another adult immediately

Recording Incidents

- Always report orally to a member of the senior staff, then complete an incident report. (Form available from the Headteacher)
- By the end of the school day parents should be informed of an incident involving their child, giving them the opportunity to discuss it.
- Advice should be sought from the Headteacher and if necessary from a representative of the professional association.
- You should ask any colleague who observed the events to write a short witness statement. This should be retained by the Headteacher with your incident report

If an incident occurs which does not meet the requirements of these guidelines

- The Chair of Governors must be informed
- The Headteacher, after consultation with the LA Officer, may decide to begin child protection procedures
- Disciplinary procedures will take place
- The professional association should be informed

Individual Reactive Strategies (IRS)

Where a child has emotional/behavioural problems there may be a need to produce an IRS to guide all staff, including supply staff, with regards to:

- cues (signs that the child is showing stress and might react badly)
- triggers – factors that cause the reaction
- diversion strategies
- restraint

Timian Training

Several support staff have received Timian training in which appropriate techniques for break away and restraint are practised. A list of Timian trained staff is displayed in the staffroom.

Physical contact with pupils under other circumstances

There are situations in which physical contact with a pupil may be appropriate or necessary, for example in PE, when administering first aid or when a distressed child needs comforting. Staff are expected to use their professional judgement when they feel that a pupil needs this kind of support.

Other Documents for reference

- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection Policy

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Physical Restraint Form

Date of the incident _____ Time _____

Where the incident occurred _____

Names of the pupil involved _____

Name of the adult
involved _____

Names of witnesses _____

Details of what caused the incident:

Steps taken to defuse the incident:

The reason physical intervention was needed:

Details of physical intervention you used:

Details of the pupil's response:

Details of any injuries sustained by the pupil:

Details of injuries to any other pupils or property:

Details of any injuries to yourself:

Completed by _____ Date _____

Received by _____ (Headteacher) Date _____