



Pondhu
Primary School

M-6 Use of Restraint Policy

Date of Last Review:	Autumn 2021
Date of Next Review:	Autumn 2023

USE OF RESTRAINT POLICY

PONDHU PRIMARY SCHOOL

Introduction

This policy is based on guidance outlined in DFE (July 2013) Use Of Reasonable Force. This reflects the schools commitment as a Rights Respecting School, in particular Article 3 the school will work in the best interests of the child. It also ensures the protection of rights (Article 4) and protection from all forms of violence (Article 19). The circular refers to the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which clarifies 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 whole school positive behaviour policy on behaviour and discipline.

Part 1

Staff should refer to the Local Authority policy 'Guidelines for the Use of Physical Restraint in Schools and Social Care Settings' for more detailed advice. This is available in: The Head teacher's office, is on the shared drive and forms Appendix A to this policy.

At Pondhu 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 damage to property, including their own
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, in the classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere, such intervention would only occur if normal positive behaviour management had not worked. (Article 3, 4, 19)

All Staff are empowered to restrain, however, a number of staff have undergone Team Teach training, and these staff should apply physical restraint if possible. The list of Team Teach staff members is displayed in the staff room.

The use of restraint should always be a last resort. If practical before intervention, de-escalation strategies will be used 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 DFE (July 2013) Use Of Reasonable Force and in the Local Authority guidelines referred to above. Staff should always avoid touching / holding a pupil in a way that might be considered inappropriate. Force, where used, should always be reasonable. There is no definition of 'reasonable force'; it should always be proportional 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 child / young person.

Regular changeovers of staff should where possible occur during a protracted holding episode, the child / young person must continue to be given opportunities to calm and de-escalation strategies should be attempted. Team Teach techniques seek to avoid injury to the child / young person, but it is possible that bruising or scratching may occur accidentally, and these are not to be seen necessarily as a failure of professional technique, but a regrettable and infrequent side effect of ensuring that the child / young person remains safe. Any adjustments to professional technique are examined in the recording and reporting phase of the procedures in light of any issues arising out of a crisis episode.

Individual Behaviour Management plans will be developed for children by key members of staff, based on Team Teach techniques and methods. These plans will be shared with parents/carers, who will sign plans to confirm agreement. Plans will be recorded using the agreed format and will be stored on the shared drive and in class and

central SEN records. In addition to Individual Behaviour Management plans, risk assessments will be completed for children who are known to pose a risk to the safety of themselves and others.

Pondhu Primary School accepts and understands that in accordance with the law corporal punishment is forbidden.

Part II

Where restraint has been necessary, the incident must be reported to a member of the senior management team and logged. **The Team Teach Incident book (located in the office) should be completed and an additional report should be written, if deemed necessary by the SMT.**

In the event of an injury occurring, the appropriate HSW Riddor incident report must be completed and the accident reporting procedures must be followed. A school First Aider will be called to administer First Aid, as necessary. Parents / carers of the children / young people 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.

The Health and Safety Committee will monitor and evaluate the use of physical intervention annually.

Any complaints will be dealt with in line with the school's complaints policy.

The choosing of staff to receive Team Teach training will be decided at the discretion of the Head teacher and Governors to ensure appropriate coverage.

All parents / carers must be made aware this policy. All new members of staff, part time staff and supply staff will be expected to read this policy.

Failure to comply with this policy will result in the instigation of procedures in line with the school's discipline policy.

Policy review

This policy was reviewed in Autumn Term 2021 and will be reviewed every two years.

Prepared by SMT

Preferred Practice

DO

- Wherever possible plan appropriate positive intervention and involve parents / carers and colleagues.
- Know the procedures within the school / setting's guidelines for the use of physical restraint.

A copy of these are available from the Head teacher's office. Discuss these with a senior member of staff if you are unsure of any point.

- Be aware of children / young people who have been physically restrained before and what happened.
- Send for adult 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 until the situation is calm.

- Report the incident to the Headteacher or senior member of staff as soon as possible and complete a report form.
- Consult your Line Manager, Professional Association or Trade Union if you have any concerns.
- Remember your professional obligations to all children / young people in your care.

DO NOT

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

Pondhu Physical Restraint Checklist

Any member of staff involved in a physical restraint incident are strongly advised to ensure all the actions listed below have been completed:

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED?

- To fill in the team teach log book (within 24 hours)
- Notify SMT and First Aider of any injury to any person
- Inform parents / carers
- Complete a risk assessment of the pupil with a member of SMT in line with Appendix recommendation.
- Develop a behaviour management if considered high risk. Ensure parents / carers sign to indicate knowledge of the plan.
- Debrief with staff involved and pupil.