



ST.PATRICK'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Live, Learn, Love with Christ".

We Live with Christ by creating a happy community with a strong sense of belonging.

We Learn with Christ by nurturing and celebrating our special talents and achievements.

We Love with Christ by respecting and caring for everyone.

Physical Restraint Policy
2018

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Physical Restraint Policy

We want our school to operate in such a way that all pupils and adults can go about their roles as teachers and learners in a safe, cooperative and calm manner. As Jesus taught us to love one another we try to emulate God's love through our actions. We aim to encourage, support, discuss, inform, engage and understand all our pupils' needs and to enable them to access the curriculum and all other provision in a willing and enthusiastic manner.

This policy should be read alongside our policy on the Management of Behaviour.

Where PR is considered necessary it will always be carried out in a way which the child understands is in their best interests and will be made clear to them that it is only necessary to prevent them hurting themselves, others, property or the conduct of their learning.

General Principles:

Only if no other solution can be found will any member of staff resort to physical techniques to prevent a child from:

- Committing a criminal offence
- Injuring themselves or others
- Damaging property
- Acting in a way that is counter to maintaining good order and discipline at the school

(See below for more detail)

Guidance under 'Use of Force' (/2012 – England) issued by the DfE updates previous legislation to make it clearer what adults working in schools can and cannot do.

All staff in our school (including those temporarily put in charge of pupils) have a legal power to use force and lawful use of that power will provide a defence to any related criminal prosecution or other legal action.

Suspension will not be an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force. The SLT and Governors will in general offer active support to staff when they use this power within the legal guidelines..... in general this will be where:

The actions taken were in the child's best interests and they were reasonable and proportionate given the circumstances.

What can you use force for?

- Removal of a disruptive child from a classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so.
- Prevention of a pupil behaving in such a way that it is disrupting a school event or a school trip or visit.
- Prevention of a pupil leaving a classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others
- Prevention of a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil or to stop a fight in the playground.
- Restraint of a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

Team Teach: In our school staff are on a cycle of training for Team Teach techniques

The seriousness of an incident of physical restraint will be determined by:

- The pupil's behaviour and level of risk presented at the time of the incident
- The degree of force used
- The effect on the pupil or the member of staff
- The child's age

SEN Pupils: Where members of staff are dealing with SEN pupils' reasonable adjustments must be made to the above principles.

Parents: Parents will always be informed where physical restraint has had to be used on a child.

If a parent (on behalf of a child) wishes to complain about the use of physical restraint the onus is on them to prove that the allegations are true – it is not for the member of staff to show that he/she acted reasonably.

When children enter the school parents are always given a Home School Agreement to sign. By signing this they are stating agreement with the policy of the school on the management of behaviour and the use of physical restraint if necessary.

Where the use of PR is a distinct possibility for a child (perhaps where his/her previous provision had to make use of it) the school will do everything it can to work with the parents in advance and to make it clear when and why PR might be used.

Recording: All incidents of physical restraint must be reported to the Headteacher as soon after the event as is practical. CPOMS will be used to record incidents.

Power of Search: School staff have the power to search pupils without their consent for prohibited items such as weapons, drugs or stolen property.

PHYSICAL CONTACT

We recognise that during the normal day-to-day interaction taking place in a Primary school, staff and children will be in regular physical contact. This is to be regarded as acceptable and indeed desirable in fostering 'normal' human communication and socialisation skills. We are 'in loco parentis' and any reasonable, normal parent would touch their child in normal interaction throughout the day. In fact in some circumstances, by not taking action physically a staff member could be found guilty of a breach of their duty of care.

However, staff should always be extremely careful about any physical contact they may have with a child, and should **never** touch a child whilst alone (this includes times when they are dealing with an injury). Staff are required by law to report any suspicion of 'improper physical contact' to the Headteacher or Safeguarding Governor ()

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