

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School



## Restraint Policy 2018/20

*“Aim high – live life to the full”*

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Written By                | Behaviour Team      |
| Ratified by Governors     | September 2018      |
| Date for review           | September 2019      |
| Signed Chair of Governors | <i>T. Gunderson</i> |
| Signed Headteacher        | <i>C. Davey</i>     |

## **PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH PUPILS IN SCHOOL CONTROL, RESTRAINT & PHYSICAL CONTACT POLICY 2018 - 2020**

The Governors and Staff of BSCPS in drawing up the policy have followed the guidelines issued by the LA.

The right to restrain pupils falls by statute, contract and common law within the teacher's duty of care (Section 550A of the Education Act).

Any physical contact with another person may be construed as common assault; the test is one of reasonableness.

In addition to the teaching staff, the Headteacher of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School will also identify all people who are authorised to have control or charge of pupils and therefore be able to use reasonable force if necessary. These include all education support staff, welfare assistants and helpers on school trips.

The law requires that force should only be used when other approaches have been tried and that all practical methods to de-escalate the situation have been employed. All staff within the school are trusted to use their professional judgement and the degree of force must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident. All staff should be on alert to situations which may trigger an outburst and be aware of any changes in behaviour which may indicate an outburst is likely. They should take steps to prevent an incident occurring.

### **REASONABLE FORCE**

**The application of reasonable force may involve:**

- physically interposing between pupils
- blocking a pupil's path
- holding (but never round the neck or collar)
- pushing
- pulling
- leading a pupil away by the hand or arm
- shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back
- in extreme cases (such as self-defence) more restrictive holds

In Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School any physical restraint used will always be the minimum needed.

The following is a list of possible situations in which the use of reasonable force may be required:

- when a pupil attacks a member of staff
- when a pupil attacks another pupil
- when a pupil is engaged in, or is on the verge of committing deliberate damage or vandalism
- when a pupil is causing or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects (for example, in the classroom, dining room, gym, baths, playground or sports field)
- when a pupil persistently refuses to follow an instruction
- when a pupil is seriously disrupting a lesson

All authorised people involved in an incident requiring physical restraint will report to the Headteacher or senior member of staff.

The School will record all incidents involving physical restraint in writing at the time including:

- the names of everyone involved, time and place and names of any other

witnesses

- how the incident began and progressed, with details of behaviour
- what everyone said, as near as possible
- what steps were taken to defuse the situation
- the degree of physical restraint used, how applied and for how long
- the pupil's response
- the outcome
- details of any injury and of any damage to property
- ensuring all parent/carers are informed immediately, orally or in writing and give them a chance to discuss the incident

All authorised people at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary will not:

- hold around the neck
- restrict a pupil's ability to breath
- slap
- punch
- kick
- twist or force limbs against a joint
- hold or pull by the hair or ear
- hold face down on the ground
- touch in a way that might be considered indecent
- use any other physical contact deemed to be unreasonable

### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE**

Staff will:

- attempt to defuse a situation rather than intervene
- adhere to whole-school policies on violence
- send another child or adult for help and send the rest of the class into a neighbouring teacher's room
- drill everyone in leaving the classroom and, if necessary, the playground. Ring the bell for the end of break and clear the playground
- talk over episodes together, find out what you think might have been a good response in difficult situations
- establish a culture of openness and not hide behind a notion of professionalism.

It is unprofessional not to report incidents.

### **BREAKING UP A FIGHT**

Staff on breaking up a fight will:

- disperse non-combatants: violence thrives on witnesses
- not put themselves at risk: alert colleagues, enlist their help
- assess a situation first
- be calm and not take it personally
- use verbal intervention first
- think about surprise and noise as more useful than force
- it may be worse than useless to add another person to a gang situation.

(In the worse scenario phone the Police)

### **SUPPORTIVE CONTACT**

There are times in a non-restraint context when physical contact between a pupil and a member of staff may be deemed to be appropriate. These situations will be in a caring context when pupils need reassurance and support.

It is important that the member of staff assesses the 'reasonableness' of their actions taking the following into account:

- the age of the pupil

- the severity of the distress of the pupil
  - the knowledge of the individual child
  - the relationship that exists between the member of staff and the pupil
- As with physical contact with pupils, the level of contact used should be the minimum necessary to achieve the desired outcome.

Due care needs to be taken to ensure that this supportive contact is agreed and open, with the circumstances in which this takes place, clear to all concerned.

The above assessments would equally apply to those situations that demand that a member of staff assist a child in their personal care. No child will be assisted by an adult in their personal care without another member of staff being present.