

Rainow Primary School

Caring, Learning, Achieving.

Use of Reasonable Force and Restrictive Interventions Policy

Member of staff responsible:	Headteacher
Date approved:	Autumn 2026
Date to be reviewed:	Autumn 2029

Introduction

Rainow Primary School strives to create an environment in which both children and adults feel happy, safe, secure and valued. We aim to ensure a whole school approach to positive behaviour known and understood by all staff, children, parents and outside agencies (see Behaviour Policy). The use of force upon any pupil by a member of staff is a serious matter and should only be considered as a last resort.

This policy also reflects the Department for Education guidance 'Restrictive Interventions, including the use of reasonable force in schools' (effective April 2026). It recognises that schools must seek to minimise the need for restrictive interventions through preventative behaviour strategies, de-escalation and positive behaviour support.

Aims of the Policy

- Provide clarification on the use of reasonable force and restrictive interventions in school.
- Ensure staff feel informed and confident about lawful intervention where necessary.
- Ensure pupils' safety and dignity remain central to all behaviour management decisions.
- Ensure the school culture prioritises prevention, de-escalation and safeguarding so that restrictive interventions are rarely required.

Legislative Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Section 93)
- DfE Guidance: 'Restrictive Interventions, including the use of reasonable force in schools' (2026)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Equality Act 2010
- The school Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

Definition of Restrictive Interventions

Restrictive interventions are actions that restrict a pupil's movement, liberty or ability to act independently in order to prevent harm. These may include:

- Physical restraint
- Reasonable force
- Blocking or guiding movements
- Seclusion in exceptional circumstances.

Legal Power to Use Reasonable Force

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use reasonable force to prevent pupils from:

- Committing a criminal offence
- Injuring themselves or others
- Damaging property
- Seriously disrupting good order and discipline

Principles Governing the Use of Force

Staff must always seek to prevent escalation through calm communication, de-escalation strategies and positive behaviour approaches before considering restrictive intervention.

Any force used must be reasonable, proportionate and used only for the shortest time necessary.

Recording Incidents

All significant incidents involving the use of reasonable force or restrictive interventions must be recorded as soon as possible after the incident.

Records will include:

- Date, time and location
- Pupils and staff involved
- Description of the incident
- Reason intervention was required
- Description of the intervention used
- Any injuries or distress caused
- Follow-up actions taken

See Appendix 1 for our school incident form which will be uploaded to CPOMs (online safeguarding system) for future reference.

Informing Parents

Parents or carers will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable after any significant use of reasonable force or restraint.

Pupils with SEND

The school recognises that pupils with SEND may be more likely to require additional support with behaviour. Staff will seek to understand triggers and provide personalised behaviour support strategies to reduce the likelihood of restrictive interventions.

Training

The SLT and all staff working with pupils who may require physical intervention will receive appropriate training (e.g. Team Teach or equivalent).

Governance and Monitoring

The governing body will monitor the use of restrictive interventions through incident reporting and review to ensure interventions remain lawful, proportionate and rare.

**Appendix 1
Record of Use of Force to Control or Restrain a Child**

Pupil Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Date and Time of Incident:	
Member (s) of Staff Involved:	
Witnesses:	
Outline of Event Leading to Use of Force to Control or Restrain pupil:	
Outline of incident of Control or Restraint	
Description of the intervention used	
Outcome of Use of Force to Control or Restrain	
Description of any injuries sustained by pupil or adult and any subsequent treatment required	

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS	
Date / Time parent informed of incident	
Met with:	
Outline of parent / carer response	
Name / Signature of Staff member completing report / Date:	
Name /Signature of SLT member completing the report / Date:	