

St. Bede's Catholic Infant School  
Restrictive Intervention Policy  
(Halton Borough Council Model Policy)  
Agreed by Staff Spring 2026  
Approved by Governors Spring 2026  
Review Date Spring 2027  
Signed Chair of Governors S. Howard Date 24.3.26

### 1. Policy Statement

This policy sets out the principles and procedures for the use of restrictive interventions, including reasonable force, in accordance with Department for Education guidance effective from 1 April 2026. The safety, dignity and welfare of pupils and staff are paramount at all times.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, dignity and rights of all pupils. Restrictive interventions will only ever be used **as a last resort**, when absolutely necessary to prevent harm.

### 2. Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools (DfE, 2026).
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Schools (Recording and Reporting of Seclusion and Restraint) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2025.
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and authorised adults working within the school. It applies during school hours, educational visits, off-site provision and any activity under the school's responsibility.

### 4. Definitions

- **Restrictive Intervention:** Any action that restricts a pupil's movement, liberty or freedom to act independently.
- **Reasonable Force:** Physical contact that is lawful, necessary and proportionate to prevent harm.
- **Restraint:** Physical interaction which limits a pupil's movement (including non-force restraint).
- **Seclusion:** Confining a pupil away from others in a manner that restricts exit and used solely to maintain safety.

### 5. Key Principles

- Restrictive interventions are used only when necessary to prevent harm.
- Interventions must be lawful, reasonable, proportionate and time-limited.
- De-escalation strategies must always be attempted first.
- Restrictive interventions must never be used as punishment.
- Any intervention must stop as soon as the risk has reduced.

## 6. Prevention and De-escalation

The school promotes a positive behaviour culture to minimise the need for restrictive interventions. Individual risk assessments and behaviour support plans will be developed where appropriate.

The school prioritises a prevention-first model, including:

- Nurture-based strategies
- De-escalation techniques
- Emotional regulation support
- Adjustments for pupils with SEND Environment and curriculum adaptations

## 7. When Restrictive Interventions May Be Used

- To prevent injury to the pupil or others.
- To prevent serious damage to property.
- To prevent the commission of a criminal offence.
- To prevent serious disruption where safety is at risk.

## 8. Recording and Reporting

Incidents involving restrictive intervention must be recorded promptly. Parents/carers will be informed as soon as practicable, normally on the same day.

The school must record **every significant incident involving the use of force**, including:

- Reason for intervention
- De-escalation attempted beforehand
- Type and degree of force used
- Duration
- Names of staff and pupils involved
- SEND status
- Injuries
- Follow-up action

## 9. Staff Training

All staff will receive training consistent with the expectations of the 2026 guidance, with a focus on:

- De-escalation
- Safe intervention techniques
- Legal duties
- Trauma-informed practice
- Training must be refreshed regularly.

## 10. Staff Training

Staff likely to use restrictive interventions will receive appropriate training in prevention, de-escalation and safe intervention techniques.

## 11. Monitoring and Governance

Senior leaders will review incidents regularly to identify patterns or concerns. The Governing Body/Trust will receive appropriate oversight reports.

**Appendix 1: Restrictive Intervention Incident Record Form (Kept on File)**