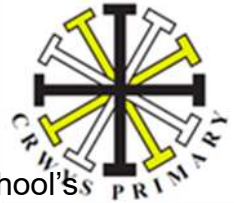


CRWYS PRIMARY SCHOOL REASONABLE FORCE POLICY



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is at the heart of our school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. As a rights-respecting school we not only teach about children's rights but also model rights and respect in all relationships. Our belief in "restorative approaches" ensures that every child is listened to.



Within all teaching and learning, numeracy, literacy and digital competency is promoted. Teachers are expected to plan and deliver objectives pitched appropriately to the learners. Lessons have success criteria which include numeracy, literacy and/or digital competency objectives to ensure the learners are aware of the particular skills they are looking to develop within that lesson. Every opportunity is used to promote the ethos of "every child can be the best they can be!"

Reasonable force Policy (Positive handling for managing challenging behaviour)

Introduction

This document is a statement of the purpose and principles governing the use of physical restraint of pupils at Crwys Primary School.

It was developed in September 2016 through a process of consultation with the teaching staff and governors. It was formally adopted by the governing body in October 2016.

This document should be regarded as a complement to Guidance document no: 097/2013 (Safe and Effective Intervention – Use of Reasonable Force and Searching for Weapons).

The Legal Framework Physical Restraint should be limited to emergency situations and used only as a last resort. Under Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 Physical Restraint enables teachers and other members of staff in the school, authorised by the Headteacher, to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances, to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing an offence
- Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil)
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among its pupils, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Definition of restraint at Crwys

Physical restraint is the positive application of force with the intention of protecting the child from harming himself or others or seriously damaging property.



*"Be all you can be – Byddwch yr hyn gallwch fod!"
Mission Statement 2017 – UNRC – Article 29*



CRWYS PRIMARY SCHOOL REASONABLE FORCE POLICY



General policy Aims

Staff at Crwys Primary School recognise that the use of reasonable force is only one of the last in a range of strategies available to secure pupil safety / well-being and also to maintain safety, good order and discipline. Our policy on restraint should therefore be read in conjunction with our Behaviour and Child Protection policies.

Specific aims of the restraint policy

- To protect every person in the school community from harm
- To protect all pupils against any form of physical intervention that is unnecessary, inappropriate, excessive or harmful
- To provide adequate information and training for staff so that they are clear as to what constitutes appropriate behaviour and to deal effectively with violent or potentially violent situations

Why use restraint?

Physical restraint should avert danger by preventing or deflecting a child's action or perhaps by removing a physical object, which could be used to harm him / herself or others. It is only likely to be needed if a child appears to be unable to exercise self-control of emotions and behaviour.

It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate and staff will have to exercise their own judgement in situations which arise within the above categories. Staff should always act within the School's policy on behaviour and discipline, particularly in dealing with disruptive behaviour.

Staff should be aware that when they are in charge of children during the school day, or during other supervised activities, they are acting in loco parentis and should, therefore, take reasonable action to ensure pupils' safety and well-being. Failure to physically restrain a pupil who is subsequently injured or injures another, could, in certain circumstances, lead to an accusation of negligence. At the same time staff are not expected to place themselves in situations where they are likely to suffer injury as a result of their intervention.

Alternative strategies

There are some situations in which the need for physical restraint is immediate and where there are no equally effective alternatives (eg is a pupil about to run across a road). However, in many circumstances there are alternatives e.g. use of assertiveness skills such as:

- the broken record in which an instruction is repeated until the pupil complies
- use of a distracter, such as a loud whistle, to interrupt the behaviour (such as a fight) long enough for other methods of verbal control to be effective



"Be all you can be – Byddwch yr hyn gallwch fod"
Mission Statement 2017 – UNRC – Article 29



CRWYS PRIMARY SCHOOL REASONABLE FORCE POLICY



withdrawal of attention (audience) e.g. if an action such as damage to property is threatened

- other techniques designed to defuse the situation, such as the avoidance of confrontation, or use of humour (in these cases the incident can be dealt with later when emotions are no longer running high)
- the employment of other sanctions consistent with the School's policy on behaviour.

Use of physical restraint

Physical restraint should be applied as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allowing the pupil to regain self-control. It should never take a form which could be seen as a punishment.

- Staff are only authorised to use reasonable force in applying physical restraint, although there is no absolute definition of this, as what constitutes reasonable

force depends upon the particular situation and the pupil to whom it is being applied. However, as a general rule, only the force necessary to stop or prevent the behaviour should be used, in accordance with the guidelines below.

There are some forms of physical intervention, which may involve minimal physical contact, such as blocking a pupil's path or the staff member physically interposing him or herself between the pupil and another pupil or object. However, in some circumstances, direct physical contact may be necessary.

In all circumstances other methods should be used if appropriate or effective physical restraint should be a last resort.

When physical restraint becomes necessary:

DO:

- Tell the pupil what you are doing and why
- Use the minimum force necessary
- Involve another member of staff if possible
- Tell the pupil what s/he must do for you to remove the restraint (this may need frequent repetition)
- Use simple and clear language
- Hold limbs above a major joint if possible e.g. above the elbow
- Relax your restraint in response to the pupil's compliance

DON'T:

- Involve yourself in a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil

"Be all you can be – Byddwch yr hyn gallwch fod!"
Mission Statement 2017 – UNRC – Article 29



CRWYS PRIMARY SCHOOL REASONABLE FORCE POLICY



- Attempt to reason with the pupil
- Involve other pupils in the restraint
- Touch or hold the pupil in sexual areas
- Twist or force limbs back against a joint
- Bend fingers or pull hair

- Hold the pupil in a way which will restrict blood flow or breathing e.g. around the neck
- Slap, punch, kick or trip up the pupil
- Act in temper (involve another staff member if you fear loss of control)

Actions after an incident

Physical restraint often occurs in response to highly charged emotional situations and there is a clear need for debriefing after the incident, both for the staff involved and the pupil. A member of the leadership team should be informed of any incident as soon as possible and will take responsibility for making arrangements for debriefing once the situation has stabilised. An appropriate member of the teaching staff should always be involved in debriefing the pupil involved and any victims of the incident should be offered support, and their parents informed.

If the behaviour is part of an ongoing pattern it may be necessary to address the situation through the development of a behavioural IEP, which may include an anger management programme, a Reactive Plan, or other strategies agreed by the SENCO.

It is also helpful to consider the circumstances precipitating the incident to explore ways in which future incidents can be avoided.

All incidents should be recorded immediately. All sections of this report should be completed so that in the event of any future complaint a full record is available. A member of the leadership team will contact parents as soon as possible after an incident, normally on the same day, to inform them of the actions that were taken and why, and to provide them with an opportunity to discuss it.

Risk Assessments

If we become aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a disruptive way that may require the use of reasonable force, we will plan how to respond if the situation arises. Such planning will address:

- Management of the pupil (e.g. reactive strategies to de-escalate a conflict, holds to be used if necessary)
- Involvement of parents to ensure that they are clear about the specific action the school might need to take
- Pastoral Support plan (PSP)
- Briefing of staff to ensure they know exactly what action they should be taking (this may identify a need for training or guidance)
- Identification of additional support that can be summoned if appropriate



*“Be all you can be – Byddwch yr hyn gallwch fod”
Mission Statement 2017 – UNRC – Article 29*



CRWYS PRIMARY SCHOOL REASONABLE FORCE POLICY



Complaints

A clear restraint policy, adhered to by all staff and shared with parents, should help to avoid complaints from parents. It is unlikely to prevent all complaints, however, and a dispute about the use of force by a member of staff might lead to an investigation, either under disciplinary procedures or by the Police and social services department under child protection procedures.

Appendix 1

When might it be appropriate to use reasonable force?

Examples of situations that may require restraint are when:

- a pupil attacks a member of staff or another pupil
- pupils fighting where serious injury could occur
- a pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials, substances or objects
- a pupil is running in a corridor in a way in which he/she might cause an accident likely to injure her/himself or others
- a pupil absconding from a class or trying to leave school (NB this will only apply if a pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or at school)



*“Be all you can be – Byddwch yr hyn gallwch fod”
Mission Statement 2017 – UNRC – Article 29*



**CRWYS PRIMARY SCHOOL
REASONABLE FORCE POLICY**



Appendix 2

CRWYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

RECORD OF RESTRAINT

Date of incident:

Time of incident:

Pupil Name:

D.o.B:

Member(s) of staff involved:

Adult witnesses to restraint:

Pupil witnesses to restraint:

Outline of event leading to restraint:

Outline of incident of restraint (including restraint method used):

Outcome of incident:

Description of any injury sustained and any subsequent treatment:

*“Be all you can be – Byddwch yr hyn gallwch fod”
Mission Statement 2017 – UNRC – Article 29*



**CRWYS PRIMARY SCHOOL
REASONABLE FORCE POLICY**



Date/time Parent/Carer informed:

By whom informed:

Outline of Parent/Carer response:

Signatures of staff involved in the report:

Brief description of any subsequent injury/complaint:



*“Be all you can be – Byddwch yr hyn gallwch fod”
Mission Statement 2017 – UNRC – Article 29*

