

# Dame Ellen Pinsent School

## Care and Control Policy



*Where children develop independence and confidence; learning through curiosity, play and enquiring*

<b>Next Review:</b>	Nov 2024	D. Cater	<b>Policy Type:</b>	Best Practice
<b>Last Review:</b>	Nov 2020	D. Cater	<b>Adopted from:</b>	n/a
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## Care and Control Policy Statement

Dame Ellen Pinsent School prides itself on its positive behaviour and staff that are committed to ensuring the happiness, safety and wellbeing of all the children within the school. We adopt an approach based on positive reinforcement of acceptable behaviour. Excellent personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils, as well as positive language and clear & consistent rewards and sanctions, are key to ensuring positive behaviour in our school.

The policy has been developed in response to The School and Inspections Act 2006 section 93 which reinforces previous guidance. It also takes cognisance of recent DfES and DOH letters of guidance and follows the guidance for 'The Use of Reasonable Force To Control or Restrain Pupils' issued by DfE, July 2013. The policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching and support staff who come into contact with pupils and for volunteers working within the school to explain the school's arrangements for care and control. Its contents are available to parents and pupils.

### Purpose of Policy

De-escalation techniques given and practiced during our Team Teach training are given absolute priority when dealing with incidents. We endeavour to use these methods to promote and encourage positive behaviour. Every effort will be made to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to pupils, staff, property and the environment. During certain situations we also recognise that there are times when a member of staff might be required to physically intervene when in the best interest of the welfare of our pupils and our staff.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 stipulates that reasonable force may be used to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do any of the following:

- (a) committing any offence,
- (b) causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself), or
- (c) prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Every effort will be made to ensure that all staff in this school:

- (i) Clearly understand this policy and their responsibilities in the context of their duty of care in taking appropriate measures where reasonable force is necessary and
- (ii) Are provided with appropriate training to deal with these difficult situations (Team Teach)
- (iii) use de-escalation techniques and the school's behavioural approach in the first instance

## **Definitions of Positive Handling:**

No legal definition of reasonable force exists however for the purpose of this policy and the implementation of it in Dame Ellen Pinsent School:

- Positive Handling uses the minimum degree of force necessary for the shortest period of time to prevent a pupil harming himself, herself, others or property.
- The scale and nature of any physical intervention must be **proportionate** to both the behaviour of the individual to be controlled, and the nature of the harm they might cause.

### **1. Physical Contact**

These are situations in which proper physical contact occurs between staff and pupils, such as in the care of pupils and in order to support their access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Examples of this are hand-over-hand led activities, gentle contact to support access to an activity and the use of high fives, handholding and hand-shaking.

### **2. Physical Intervention**

This may be used to divert a pupil from a destructive or disruptive action, for example guiding or leading a pupil by the arm or shoulder where the pupil is compliant.

### **3. Physical Control/Restraint**

When positive behaviour strategies and de-escalation techniques are unsuccessful, and when there is an immediate risk to pupils, staff or property, then the use of reasonable force may be used. It is important to note that the use of 'reasonable force' should be seen as a **last resort** and that all effort to de-escalate a situation should be attempted in the first instance. **All such incidents must be recorded** and be stored in an accessible way. When using reasonable force it is important that staff use Team Teach holds that were taught and practiced in training.

### **Situations in school in which reasonable force may be appropriate are:**

- When action is necessary in self-defence e.g. when a pupil attacks another pupil or adult
- When there is immediate risk of injury to a pupil or adult e.g. during a fight, rough play or misuse of dangerous objects or materials, or running into a busy road
- When there is immediate risk of significant damage to property
- When there is immediate risk of a pupil causing significant harm to themselves

## Procedure

At the start of each academic year every child has an individual risk assessment completed. Data analysis of behaviour and risk also takes place every half term. Any child that has particular difficulty with their behaviour will have an IBP, designed during discussion between the behaviour Lead and class staff. If a pupil's name is prominent during behaviour analysis then a PHP may be put in place in agreement with the behaviour lead, class staff and pupil parents/carers.

When necessary, and when reasonable force is used as a **last resort**, it is essential that the **incident is recorded** according to school policy. The incident should be recorded on the behaviour log on CPOMS and in the bound book. Details should include:

- Name of child
- Name of staff involved
- Date, time and location of incident
- de-escalation techniques and other strategies tried before incident
- Type of intervention used
- Duration

A digital and paper copy of this information will be stored and both Donna Cater and Aimee Whittaker will liaise with staff regarding the incident and any support that may be needed. Data analysis of behaviour and Team Teach will enable any interventions to be put into place.

A Health and Safety Accident/Incident Form will be completed and returned to the Authority in situations where injury has occurred to either members of staff or pupils. Where staff have been involved in an incident involving reasonable force they should have access to counselling and support, often this will be in the form of a de-briefing session with a member of SLT.

Where appropriate Positive Handling Plans are written for individual children and are agreed and signed by parents/carers.

## Complaints

The availability of a clear policy about reasonable force and early involvement of parents should reduce the likelihood of complaints but may not eliminate them.

Any complaints about staff will be investigated through the School's Complaints Policy. If necessary the complaint will be dealt with by the Staff Disciplinary Procedures and/or Child Protection Procedures.

## Other Relevant Policies:

Behaviour Policy

Exclusion Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

School Complaint Policy

Physical Contact and Intimate Care Policy