



Use of Reasonable Force / Restrictive Physical Intervention

On rare occasions, at St Wilfrid's School there may be times where restrictive physical intervention is used. This is not standard practice and is never used as a strategy or a way of managing behaviour.

The only reasons that restrictive physical intervention would be used is when a child becomes so out of control that they exhibit behaviours that are:

- A) a danger to themselves (self-injuring behaviours)
- B) Displaying dangerous physically aggressive behaviours towards others. (pupils and adults)
- C) Damaging property.
- D) "power to search for prohibited items e.g. weapons, drugs, stolen items etc."

– this is extremely rare at St Wilfrid's.

At St Wilfrid's, there are on-going assessments of children's needs as they may change over time. Appropriate staff are trained following Team Teach principles which are 95% de-escalation and where physical handling is only 5%.

Every other measure must have been put in place before physical intervention is used. At these times, staff will openly communicate that they will "hold them safely until they can hold themselves."

Appropriate staff have received training which is regularly updated. Staff are regularly refreshed and revisit the Team Teach principles and strategies and positive handling of pupils if required.

We have a duty to keep children and staff safe from harm therefore Restrictive Physical Intervention is used when a child becomes at risk of being at harm. If necessary, children will be moved to a designated safe place, where space is restricted, to prevent the child putting themselves or others at risk. However, we recognise that restraint can cause trauma in children as outlined in Reducing the Use of Restraint 2019.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812435/reducing-the-need-for-restraint-and-restrictive-intervention.pdf

In order to avoid physical intervention, we encourage and teach children to take "regulation time" and withdraw from situations to begin to self-regulate and not react to others. We are also aware of the need to recognise the needs of children who have witnessed others having difficulty regulating. They may in turn struggle to continue with their learning following any disruption to class activities. At all times following incidents, where restrictive physical intervention has been used:

- ◆ The pupils must have time to debrief, repair and a period of recovery.
- ◆ Staff must have access to debrief and support.
- ◆ Parents must be informed.