

# **St. Anne Line Catholic Junior School**



## **Force and Restraint Policy**

**Reviewed : January 2021**

# ST. ANNE LINE CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL



Wickhay, Basildon  
Essex.  
SS15 5AF

## Force and Restraint Policy

Date of Policy:	January 2021
Date last review adopted by Governing Body:	November 2017
Date of next review:	November 2025

**With Jesus, through the St Anne Line Way,  
We Love, We Learn, We Share, We Pray.**

**Together, we grow Our School each day**

The Governors of St. Anne Line Catholic Junior school have drawn up this policy to ensure the correct implementation of DfE circular 'Use of Reasonable Force' (July 2013)

This policy, which forms part of our whole school Discipline & Behaviour policy, must be adhered to by all members of staff in order to safeguard all pupils and themselves.

### **AIM:**

The aim of this policy is to identify what forms of physical contact are allowed, to make all staff aware of the circumstances in which physical intervention might be appropriate and to identify factors that staff should bear in mind when deciding whether to use physical force. It also serves as a mechanism for informing parents of the legal situation surrounding the use of force in school.

### **RATIONALE**

- Corporal punishment - The school does not authorise, in any way, the use of corporal punishment to discipline children. As section 550A states 'The law **forbids** a teacher to use any degree of physical contact which is deliberately intended to punish a pupil, or which is primarily intended to cause pain, injury or humiliation.'
- Authorised use of force. - Wherever possible, staff should attempt to use 'verbal' strategies for dealing with difficult situations. There are however certain instances when the use of physical force may be the only option to ensure the safety of both individual or groups of pupils, or to maintain discipline and behaviour. Section 550A allows teachers and other persons who are authorised by the head teacher to use such force as is reasonable to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:
  - Remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
  - Prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
  - Prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;

- Prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground;
- Restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

To be consistent with our Discipline & Behaviour policy, all members of staff are authorised by the head Teacher and Governors to use reasonable force under the above circumstances. Parents and voluntary helpers who may be helping either in school or on educational visits, must only use reasonable force in situations where there is a significant risk of injury either to an individual child, other children or themselves. Physical force is not justified to prevent a trivial misdemeanour, or in a situation that could be resolved without force. **It is unlawful to use force as a punishment.**

### REASONABLE FORCE

- The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.
- Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
- 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- As mentioned above, schools generally use force to control pupils and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.
- Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.
- School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

Any force used should always be the **minimum** needed to achieve the desired result and should also be in relation to the age and physical size of the pupil.

### APPLICATION OF FORCE

It is impossible to establish set rules regarding what type of contact is justified in different situations, however the following are the types of contact that are warranted, subject to the principle of reasonable force being used:

- Physically intervening between pupils who may be fighting.
- Blocking the path of a pupil who may be about to commit a criminal offence.
- Holding a pupil by the upper arm using a 'Friendly C'\* if they are in physical danger or are causing severe disruption.
- Leading a pupil away from a conflict situation by holding the hand or using a 'Friendly Hold'\*.
- Shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back.

\* *Friendly Hold* – Link arms with the pupil and both people's elbows should be bent, adult holding the lower arm.

\* *Friendly C* – Adult shaping their hand in a C shape holding the upper arm without gripping i.e. keeping the fingers straight.

Under no circumstances should staff or authorised personnel act in a way that might deliberately cause injury, for example by:

- Holding a pupil by the neck, collar or any other way that might restrict breathing

- Slapping, punching, or kicking a pupil.
- Twisting or forcing limbs against a joint.
- Tripping up a pupil.
- Holding a pupil by the hair or ear.
- Holding a pupil face down on the ground.

### **RECORDING INCIDENTS**

It is important that staff immediately report any incident of physical contact that takes place between themselves and a pupil, to the Head teacher or most senior member of staff in school at the time. This should be followed by completing a full report of the incident, using the proforma in Appendix A. Parents will also be informed of any incident involving their child and will be given an opportunity to discuss the incident at the earliest possible convenience.

### **PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH PUPILS IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**

There are inevitably some other occasions when physical contact with children is necessary. In particular, physical contact may be necessary during P.E or D.T lessons, or if a member of staff has to give First aid. All staff should be aware of the possible mis-interpretation of actions such as this, so wherever possible any such contact should only be used where another member of staff is present, or the contact made in such a way that it cannot not be misinterpreted. Staff should be particularly aware of cultural and gender issues around physical contact.

Please also see: [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#) for further guidance.

Saint Anne Line Catholic Junior School is a level one Rights' Respecting school. At the heart of our school is the Convention for the Rights of the Child (CRC). This is evident in our planning, policies, practice and ethos.

- **Standard A: Rights-respecting values underpin leadership and management**  
The best interests of Saint Anne Line pupils are a top priority in all actions. The values and principles of the CRC at the heart of this policy.
- **Standard B: The whole school community learns about the CRC**  
The Convention is made known to children and adults. They use this shared understanding to work for global justice and sustainable living.
- **Standard C: The school has a rights-respecting ethos**  
Children and adults collaborate to develop and maintain a rights-respecting school community, based on the CRC, in all areas and in all aspects of school life.
- **Standard D: Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners**  
Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously. Saint Anne Line pupils develop the confidence, through their experience of an inclusive rights-respecting school community, to play an active role in their own learning and to speak and act for the rights of all to be respected locally and globally.

**Record of an Incident of Force to Control or Restrain a Pupil**      **DATE:** .....

**Name of pupil involved:** .....

<b>When did the incident take place?</b>	
<b>Where did the incident take place?</b>	
<b>Name of any other staff or pupils who witnessed the incident:</b>	
<b>The reason that force was necessary:</b>	
<b>How the incident began / progressed:</b>	
<b>Details of pupils behaviour:</b>	
<b>What was said by different parties:</b>	
<b>Steps taken to defuse or calm the situation:</b>	
<b>The degree of force used / how it was applied / for how long:</b>	
<b>What was the parents response and the outcome of the incident?</b>	

\* Continue overleaf if necessary.

**Signatures from Staff:** .....

**Parents:** .....

**Details of any injury suffered by the pupil, another pupil or a member of staff and or damage to property:**