



ST. CATHERINE'S
— **COLLEGE** —
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Positive Handling and Physical Restraint Guidance

This policy was adopted by Governors in 22/01/18

This Policy was shared with staff in February 2018

This policy is due for review in 21/01/21

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact details
Principal	Mark Talbot	01323 465442
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Kerry Guppy	01323 465438
SENCo	Matt Lomath	01323 465462
Chair of Governors	David Jeffries	01323 465403
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Amanda Glover	07825 782793
Children's Social Care – for reporting concerns	Duty and Assessment Team East - Hastings and Rother	01424 724144
	Duty and Assessment Team West - Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden	01323 747373
	Emergency Duty Service – after hours, weekends and public holidays	01273 335906 01273 335905

The purpose and scope of this guidance

INTRODUCTION

Behaviour and safety at St Catherine's College is paramount. We are proud that we strive to form positive relationships with our parents and pupils and that our pupils interact positively together. We believe that all students and staff have a right to feel safe, secure and cared for and have access to appropriate support. At St Catherine's College we want to ensure that all our students who experience difficulties in managing their emotions or behaviour are supported under a clear framework so that staff, parents and pupils are aware what strategies may be used to ensure the safety of all students.

For the majority of our students we will never have to use physical interventions but, on occasions, this may be a strategy that we need to implement. At St Catherine's we will always aim to ensure that our behaviour intervention team will be called to intervene when positive handling is required. For some students, it may be helpful to draw up a plan of behaviour support that includes physical intervention techniques as a proactive measure. If this is the case, parents and the student will be involved in writing the plan.

Physical intervention and the law

The law allows all adults, who are authorised by the Principal to be responsible for students, to use such force as is reasonable to prevent a student:

- committing a criminal offence (or for younger children, that which would be an offence)

- causing personal injury, injury to others or damage to property
- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline.

The Principal will ensure that training is available for staff and that key staff will undertake specialist training to ensure they have the necessary skills to respond appropriately.

Definition of terms used:

Handling – refers to any physical intervention applied by a member of staff where it is necessary to make physical contact with a student in order to manage their conduct or ensure their own or others' safety. Handling strategies may be restrictive or non-restrictive and include shepherding, guiding, supporting, blocking, confining, holding and, in the most extreme cases, restraining.

Use of Reasonable Force – is the application of appropriate and proportionate force needed to achieve the required outcome from the handling strategy employed (see above) without further endangering the student, member of staff or others present at the time of physical intervention.

Restraint - is the positive application of force in order to actively prevent a child from causing significant injury* to him/herself or others or seriously damaging property. *Significant Injury would include actual or grievous bodily harm, physical or sexual abuse, risking the lives of, or injury to, themselves or others by wilful or reckless behaviour, and self-poisoning.

ETHOS

The use of physical interventions will never be used as a punishment and will always be a last resort. Prevention strategies should always be implemented first, alongside effective and individualised support to prevent a situation from escalating.

- Physical intervention should only be used where it is reasonable to do so to prevent harm from occurring to the student or others.
- The College will always make reasonable adjustments for students with special educational needs (SEND) in line with the legal duties.

Monitoring and recording

- All incidents where staff feel they have had to use force to modify conduct or behaviour should be clearly recorded on MyConcern. This will automatically ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead is made aware of the incident. Information needs to include-
- - name of young person
 - when/where the incident took place
 - details of the incident
 - antecedents- what took place leading up to the incident
 - what steps were taken to diffuse/resolve the situation without the use of force/positive handling
 - outcome of the intervention
 - reaction of the student involved
 - details of any injuries (to student or others)

- details of any damage to property
- a medical treatment
- names of any witnesses

It is the responsibility of the member of staff who implemented the intervention to complete the record.

- Immediately after an intervention, the student and their parents should be offered an opportunity to debrief and review the incident.
- An investigation should be completed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team who was not involved in the intervention.
- Following the intervention, a debrief session should take place (at a later date) to review the events, using the report from the investigation that took place and identify any learning that could inform future practice and planning. This should include the staff involved and a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Complaints

If parents or students are concerned about an incident they should, in the first instance, contact the Principal.