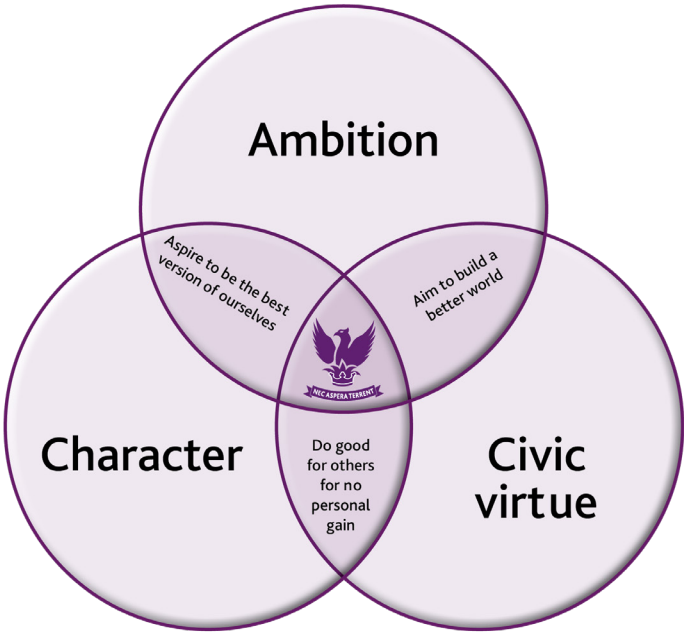


PHYSICAL INTERVENTION TO CONTROL OR RESTRAIN STUDENTS (Guidance for staff)

Reviewed by CSWP on 6 March 2024
Ratified by Governing Body on 21 March 2024
Date of next review: March 2025



DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL





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PHYSICAL INTERVENTION TO CONTROL OR RESTRAIN STUDENTS (Guidance for staff)

The law permits staff to make physical contact with students, using such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a student from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following

- committing an offence
- causing injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student themselves)
- prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among students receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise

The staff to which this power applies are

- any teacher who works at the school
- any other person whom the Head has authorised to have control or charge of students. They are
 - support staff whose job normally includes supervising students such as peripatetic music teachers, learning support assistants, learning mentors and school meals supervisors
 - employees who are in school at set times of the year, for example exam invigilators
 - staff whose job does not normally involve supervising students, for example administration staff, site staff, cleaners and technicians
 - unpaid volunteers, for example parents accompanying students on school visits, outside speakers

Examples of situations that may require physical intervention include

- a student attack on a member of staff or another student
- students fighting, causing injury to themselves or others
- a student is committing, or on the verge of committing damage to property
- a student is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous material or objects
- a student persistently refuses to follow an instruction to leave the classroom
- a student is behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a lesson
- a student is behaving in a way that seriously disrupts a school sporting event or visit

There is no legal definition of reasonable force. The use of even modest force would be unlawful if the circumstances do not warrant it. Force should not exceed that reasonably required to deal with the circumstances.

Whether to use force and how will always depend on the circumstances of each case. It is recognised that such decisions frequently have to be made quickly, with little time for reflection. Any assessment of the reasonableness of the action will take this into account. In particular, staff should not compromise

effective action in situations where there appears to be an imminent risk of injury unless staff intervene physically.

The power extends however beyond such situations to those where there is prejudice to the maintenance of good order and discipline. It is expected that in such cases the likelihood of anything other than modest intervention would be appropriate before the incident was attended by a member of SLT.

If a student absconds from a class or tries to leave school other than at an authorised time this is not enough on its own to justify use of force. However, it would be justifiable where allowing a student to leave would

- entail serious risks to the student's safety, to the safety of other students and staff, or of damage to property
- lead to behaviour that prejudices good order and discipline such as disrupting other classes.

USING FORCE

Before using force staff should wherever practicable tell the student to stop misbehaving and communicate in a calm and measured manner throughout the incident. Staff should not give the impression of acting out of anger or frustration, or to punish a student, and should make it clear that physical contact or restraint will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary. Staff should make every effort to avoid acting in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause injury. However, in the most extreme circumstances it may not always be possible to avoid injuring a student.

Preferred Physical Action

The following kinds of intervention are the most appropriate

- interposing between students or blocking a student's path
- holding, pushing, pulling or leading a student by the arm
- shepherding a student away by placing a hand in the centre of the back

The school recognises that the decision to use physical intervention in such circumstances frequently have to be made quickly. However, wherever possible, should a student require to be intervened with physically, this should be carried out by members of staff who have been trained in Safer Handling techniques with witnesses present. However, the school recognises that there are circumstances where that may not be possible, in particular where the immediate health and safety of others is at imminent risk.

The following kinds of intervention are unlikely to be appropriate

- holding a student by the neck
- slapping, punching, twisting limbs
- holding or pulling by the hair
- staff should always avoid touching or restraining a student in a way that could be interpreted as sexually inappropriate conduct

What to do Following Physical Intervention

Immediately after incidents staff should

- orally report to the Line Deputy Head, the Head of Year and if relevant the Head of Faculty

As soon as possible the Head of Year should

- contact parents/ guardians
- interview student(s) and obtain a written statement
- liaise with IT to download any available CCTV footage

As soon as possible staff should

- complete a Use of Reasonable Force Form (attached to the back of this guidance or available from the Administration Office) and pass it to the School Administration Manager
- submit an additional written report to the Head indicating
 - name(s) of student(s) involved
 - place of incident
 - name(s) of witnesses to the incident
 - details of what took place, how the incident began and progressed, including details of the student's behaviour, any words said, the steps taken to defuse/calm the situation,
 - the degree of force used, how this was applied and for how long
 - the student's response and the outcome of the incident
 - details of any injury suffered by the student, another student, a member of staff or anyone else and any damage to property
 - any damage to property which occurred

The School Administration Manager should

- record the incident in the incident book kept in the Administration Office

The Head should

- send the additional written report to the relevant Head of Year for action and filing

TRAINING

The school will offer a rolling programme of staff training on use of reasonable force

This document should be read in conjunction with DfE Guidance on *Use of Reasonable Force July 2013*



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Please return this completed form to the Administration Manager in the main Administration Office for recording in the incident book

Date	
Time reported	
Student(s) involved in the incident	
Tutor Group	
Staff involved in incident	
Time and place of incident	
Reported to	
Staff written report completed and passed to HOY for action/to place in student(s) file(s)	
Student(s) written report(s) completed and passed to HOY for action/to place in student(s) file(s)	