



**The Redeemer**  
Church of England Primary School

Use of reasonable force

Date: 2024 2025

This section refers and quotes directly from the document: Use of Reasonable Force Guidance – 2013:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>

The use of physical force by teachers and others authorised by the Headteacher to control or restrain pupils is sanctioned by section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and was further clarified in the document above.

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.

*Teachers can use 'reasonable force' to:*

- *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*

*Schools cannot:*

- *Use force as a punishment – it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment*

Before intervening physically a teacher/teaching assistant should tell the pupil who is misbehaving to stop and explain the consequence of what will happen if he/she does not stop. The teacher/teaching assistant should continue attempting to communicate with the pupil throughout the incident, and should make it clear that physical contact or restraint will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary. A calm and measured approach to the situation is needed and a teacher/teaching assistant should never give the impression that they have lost their temper, or are acting out of anger or frustration to punish the pupil. It is advisable for a teacher/teaching assistant to summon help from another adult. The pupil should be informed that help has been sought.

Physical intervention can take several forms. It might involve:

- Physical interposing between pupils
- Blocking a pupil's path
- Holding
- Leading a pupil by the hand or arm
- Shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back

**Telling parents when force has been used on their child**

- *It is good practice for schools to speak to parents about serious incidents involving the use of force and to consider how best to record such serious incidents. It is up to schools to decide whether it is appropriate to report the use of force to parents.*
- *In deciding what is a serious incident, teachers should use their professional judgement and consider the:*

- *pupil's behaviour and level of risk presented at the time of the incident;*
- *degree of force used;*
- *effect on the pupil or member of staff; and*
- *the child's age.*

***What about other physical contact with pupils?***

*It is not illegal to touch a pupil. There are occasions when physical contact, other than reasonable force, with a pupil is proper and necessary. Examples of where touching a pupil might be proper or necessary:*

- *Holding the hand of the child at the front/back of the line when going to assembly or when walking together around the school;*
- *When comforting a distressed pupil;*
- *When a pupil is being congratulated or praised;*
- *To demonstrate how to use a musical instrument;*
- *To demonstrate exercises or techniques during PE lessons or sports coaching; and*
- *To give first aid.*