

Viking Academy Trust



Use of Reasonable Force Policy

The VIKING ACADEMY TRUST 'Use of Reasonable Force' Policy has been written after consultation with all stakeholders and follows DfE guidance.

Approved by the Trust: Term 4 2017

Reviewed biennial: Term 4

Last review date: Term 1 2018

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robo', is placed over a grey rectangular background.

Chair of Trust

Use of Reasonable Force Policy

The Viking Academy Trust

Schools in the Viking Academy Trust (VAT)

Chilton Primary School
Ramsgate Arts Primary School
Upton Junior School

This 'Use of Reasonable Force' Policy is for all aforementioned schools.

Use of Reasonable Force Policy

"We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together."

Introduction:

What is the purpose of this policy?

It is very rare for 'Reasonable Force' to be used in Viking schools but occasionally situations arise when it proves necessary for an adult to use force (restraint) on a pupil. This policy describes our approach to the use of reasonable force. It is informed by the guidance issued by the Department for Education: 'Use of Reasonable Force'.

This policy will:

- ensure the safety of children and staff;
- prevent serious injury or harm to children and staff;
- provide guidelines to staff when faced with situations that may require the use of reasonable force.

What is '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.

(taken from DfE 'Use of Reasonable Force', 2013)

Who can use reasonable force?

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force.

This power applies to any member of Viking staff. It can also apply to people whom the Executive Headteacher / Head of School has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying children on a school trip.

The school does not require Parental consent to use force on a child.

Minimising the Need for using Reasonable Force:

The staff of the Viking Academy Trust aim to minimize in every way possible the need to use reasonable force by ensuring the school environment is calm, children are safe and well supervised, risk assessments are in place.

- * By, if possible, talking calmly to the child, allowing space, listening, use of humour, cajoling, reasoning, diversion and distraction.
- * The child should always be told that physical restraint will have to be used unless he or she stops the disruption, dangerous or aggressive and threatening behaviour.

When can reasonable force be used?

Using Reasonable Force:

- * Only the **MINIMUM FORCE NECESSARY** should be used for the shortest practicable time.
Health and safety is paramount; first aid will be applied if required.
- * Force should only be used for two main purposes — to control or restrain children who present as a danger to themselves or others.
- * The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

Examples of situations where reasonable force could be used:

- restrain a child at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts;
- remove disruptive (aggressive and threatening) children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- prevent a child leaving the classroom where allowing the child to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- prevent a child behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;

- prevent a child from attacking a member of staff or another child, or to stop a fight.

NB Every child is different and every situation is different and this must be taken into consideration, for example, if a child has special needs it means they have to be restrained in a different way.

Those children identified as possibly requiring restraint will have this clearly written on their IEP. Parents or carers will have been informed.

How are incidents recorded?

Whenever it has been necessary to use restraint on a child, the incident must:

1. be reported immediately to the Head of School (or Deputy Headteacher in Head's absence);
2. be reported to parents at the Head of School's discretion. Parents may be invited in to discuss the incident and next steps;
3. be recorded on the Trust's 'Reasonable Force Incident' Key Survey form within 24 hours (see Appendix 1). A copy of this will go to Head & pupil's electronic file.
4. be reflected upon by the Head of School, staff member(s), the child and parents. This could be done in several ways according to the degree of force used and the effect and distress on the child and staff member.

NB any first aid will be dealt with straight away.

Training

Staff should receive regular updates at 'in school training sessions' on the appropriate use of 'Reasonable Force'. This training will take place during allocated PDM sessions or as part of individual CPD or INSET.

Monitoring and Review

The Executive Headteacher and Leadership team will monitor the use of this policy on an incident -based basis. Reports will be made to the LAB about the use and implementation of this policy.

Appendix 1: VAT Restraint Form (Key Survey)

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Viking Academy Trust



One Childhood One Chance

Chilton Primary School Chilton Primary School Restraint Record

1. Name of person reporting incident:

2. Your e-mail:

3. Name of child/children:

4. Date of incident
(DD/MM/YY)

5. Year Group:

- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6

6. Class:

7. Location: (eg Playground, Classroom, Corridor)

8. Reason for restraint and pupil's response:

9. Name of staff involved in restraint:

10. Name(s) of witnesses:

11. Injuries and damage caused / OUTCOME: