



Le Cateau

Community Primary School

Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) Policy 2015-18

Background:

It is important to acknowledge the importance of good relationships and good teaching and learning, which underpin the good social and emotional development of all pupils.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our policies on:

- Single equality scheme
- Teaching and Learning
- Special Educational Needs or disabilities (SEND)
- Anti-bullying
- Expected Behaviour
- Attendance
- Missing Child Procedures

All of these policies are to be found within the policies section on the school website.

Rationale:

The vast majority of pupils at Le Cateau Community Primary School behave very well and make progress in whatever the setting. However, in order to fulfil our duty of care to all pupils, prevent harm and maintain a safe /secure learning environment, as a last resort, we may, on a very small number of occasions, need to physically hold (restrain) a pupil for his /her own safety.

This policy covers those situations where incidents are foreseeable and the school has planned interventions which are agreed and supported by parents /carers; and are monitored through planned risk assessments or individual pupil plans.

It does not cover emergency situations which cannot reasonably be planned for in advance.



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Principles:

We may restrain a pupil, if that pupil is at risk of causing significant harm to himself /herself, or to other pupils /adults.

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a child or young person from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- a. committing any offence (or, for a child under the age of criminal responsibility (10 years), what would be an offence for an older pupil);
- b. causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the child or young person himself); or
- c. prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any children or young people receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Staff should also refer to LA Guidance, September '12, pg. 4 para. 2.

There is no legal definition of when it is reasonable to restrain a pupil, that will always depend on the precise circumstances of the individual pupil. However, to be lawful, the force used needs to be the minimum necessary and be in proportion to the consequences that it is intended to prevent.

It is important to always take account of any SEN and/or learning disability that a pupil may experience. We have two key duties under the Equalities Act 2010:

- a) not to treat a disabled pupil less favourably, for a reason relating to his/her disability, than someone to whom that reason does not apply, without justification, and
- b) to take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage to pupils who are not disabled (reasonable adjustments duty).



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We should never use restraint as a punishment, or to physically overpower a pupil who is not putting themselves or others at serious risk of harm. It should only be used:

- i) in exceptional circumstances where any other course of action would be deemed likely to fail;
- ii) as a last resort, where all other courses of action have failed
- iii) with the minimum degree of intrusion

Responsibility:

The staff to which this power applies is defined in section 95 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. They are:

- a] any teacher who works at our school, and
- b] any other person whom the head teacher has specifically authorised.

However, the school recognises the need to safeguard both children and adults therefore, only staff members and adults who have completed the relevant LA accredited training are expected to physically intervene. The members of the school community who have accessed the relevant training are listed within the Single Central Record within the school office. The list is monitored by the Deputy Headteacher and Business Manager to ensure staff have the appropriate training.

It is the responsibility of each member of staff to make an assessment of the particular circumstances. Staff need to know the contents of this policy and decide whether they feel they are capable of managing the situation alone and if physical intervention is required.

Where it is possible, more than one member of staff should be involved and, ideally where a member of staff is physically managing a pupil of the opposite sex, a member of staff of the same sex as the pupil should be present from the earliest time possible.



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At the conclusion of any incident, the pupil and member/s of staff involved should be offered support to reflect on the circumstances and mediate a best way forward. This mediation will be overseen by an allocated member of staff from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

All incidents of restraint must be reported to the Headteacher/Deputy and recorded in the school's Major Incident Book (located in the school office), be reported to parents as soon as reasonably possible, but always within 24 hours and are monitored regularly (half termly) by the Headteacher and Deputy, and reported on to the Governing Body each term through the Procedures Committee.

Training:

Appropriate training will be provided for **ALL** school staff on a biannual basis. The training will be provided by an EDA - Behaviour, Discipline and Attendance from the LA and will meet the criteria for a suitably accredited trainer. Opportunities for training will be co-ordinated by the Headteacher or Deputy. A record of attendance is entered into the SCR.

Responding to complaints:

The use of RPI can lead to allegations of inappropriate or excessive use. In the event of a complaint being received in relation to the use of force by staff, the matter should be dealt with in accordance with agreed procedures for handling allegations against members of staff and follow the protocols outlined in the General Complaints Procedures Policy.

Additional information and supporting documentation can be found within the LA Guidance on the Use of RPI (September 2012) and is Located within the school policies section on the website.

Adopted by Le Cateau Community Primary School Governing Body on 26th November 2013

Reviewed and amended: November 2015
Date of next review: November 2018