

Appendix 3

Pupil Restraint/Positive Handling

Restraint – when – in accordance to DfE guidelines

- where action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury;
- where there is a developing risk of injury, or significant damage to property;
- schools do not require parental consent to use restraint/positive handling on a student.
- Holmfirth High School recognises our legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN).

Examples of situations that fall into these categories are:

- a pupil attacks a member of staff, or another pupil;
- pupils are fighting;
- a pupil is engaged in, or is on the verge of committing, deliberate damage or vandalism to property;
- a pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects;
- a pupil is running in a corridor or on a stairway in a way in which he or she might have or cause an accident likely to injure him or herself or others;
- a pupil absconds from a class or tries to leave school (N.B. this will only apply if a pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or at school).

Staff are advised that restraint should not routinely be used to stop a child leaving a classroom. In many cases where a child has lost their temper, the act of walking out of the classroom can provide the cooling off period necessary. The behaviour issues can be addressed later. Again, restraint should only be used if the pupil is presenting a threat of danger to themselves or others.

Restraint – how

If the decision to restrain is taken, there are two relevant considerations:

- i. the use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of the particular incident warrant it. The use of any degree of force is unlawful if the particular circumstances do not warrant the use of physical force. Therefore physical force could not be justified to prevent a pupil from committing a trivial misdemeanour, or in a situation that clearly could be resolved without force.
- ii. the degree of force employed must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or the consequences it is intended to prevent. Any force used should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

Restraint – who

With the provisos listed above, the law gives any member of staff at the school the powers to restrain pupils.

At Holmfirth High School the Headteacher has given authority for any member of staff to use restraint in line with the conditions set out above. It can also apply to people whom the head teacher has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.

Recording restraint

All incidents involving restraint must be recorded by the teacher concerned in the 'Serious Incidents Log' held

in the Pupil Welfare Office and details of the incident will be transferred onto the SIMS behaviour log by the

Systems Manager. It is also the responsibility of the teacher concerned to speak with the pupil's Head of

Year/ SLT to follow up on the incident and ensure that parents have been informed by the school. The

'Serious Incident Log' is reviewed on a regular basis by the Headteacher.