RESTRICTIVE INTERVENTIONS (INCLUDING REASONABLE USE OF FORCE) POLICY

Reviewed: September 2026
Next Review: September 2027
Policy Owner: DSL
Approved by: Gill Sommers, SG Governor

Purpose

This policy sets out the circumstances in which restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, may be used in school and how they will be recorded and reported in line with Department for Education statutory guidance (April 2026).

The school is committed to:

- Maintaining a safe environment
- Protecting the dignity and rights of pupils
- Minimising the use of restrictive intervention
- Ensuring lawful and proportionate practice

Legal Framework

This policy is based on:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- DfE: *Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force in schools* (April 2026)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education

Definitions

Restrictive Intervention: Any action that limits a pupil's movement or freedom, including physical and non-physical actions.

Reasonable Force: The minimum force required for the shortest time to reduce risk.

Restraint: Restricting a pupil's movement, either physically or non-physically.

Seclusion: Supervised isolation of a pupil to manage immediate risk, not as punishment.

Significant Incident: Any use of force beyond everyday physical contact.

Principles

Restrictive interventions must be:

- Lawful
- Necessary

- Proportionate
- Time-limited
- In the pupil's best interests

They must:

- Never be used as punishment
- Never be used to enforce compliance
- Never be used as a disciplinary sanction

When Restrictive Interventions May Be Used

Staff may use reasonable force only to:

- Prevent injury
- Prevent serious damage to property
- Prevent a criminal offence
- Prevent serious disruption where safety is at risk

Preventative Strategies

The school prioritises:

- Positive behaviour support
- De-escalation
- Individual behaviour plans
- Risk assessments
- Environmental adjustments
- Consistent routines

Staff Authority and Training

- All staff have legal authority to use reasonable force if required
- Only trained staff should carry out planned restrictive interventions
- Training will be refreshed regularly
- Staff must follow this policy and pupil support plans

Recording and Reporting

8.1 Recording (Statutory Duty)

A written record must be completed as soon as practicable (normally same day) and include:

- Names of staff and pupils
- Date, time and location
- Trigger and de-escalation used

- Description of intervention
- Duration
- Injuries
- Support provided

See Appendix 1 for Reporting Form. A copy of the Form must be passed on to the Headmaster and the DSL.

8.2 Reporting to Parents (Statutory Duty)

Parents/carers must be informed in writing as soon as practicable (normally the same day).

This applies to:

- Physical restraint
- Non-physical restraint
- Seclusion

Post-Incident Support and Review

Following any restrictive intervention:

- Medical checks must be completed
- Emotional support provided
- A debrief conducted
- Behaviour plans reviewed
- Patterns monitored

SEND and Equality

- Behaviour may indicate unmet needs
- Reasonable adjustments will be made
- Individualised planning will be used
- Parents and professionals will be involved

Complaints and Allegations

- Complaints will follow the school complaints procedure
- Allegations against staff will follow safeguarding procedures
- Incidents may be referred to external agencies where required

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will:

- Monitor use of restrictive interventions

- Review data regularly
- Ensure compliance with statutory guidance
- Review this policy annually
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Appendix 1 Restrictive Intervention/Use of Reasonable Force Recording & Reporting Form

School:	Moor Park Richards Castle, Ludlow SY8 4DZ
Form completed by:	
Date completed:	

Section 1 – Pupil Details

Pupil Name:		
Date of Birth:		
Year Group/Class:		
SEND / EHCP:	☐ Yes	☐ No
Behaviour Support Plan in place:	☐ Yes	☐ No

Section 2 – Incident Details

Date of Incident:
Time of Incident:
Location of Incident:
Staff involved:
Other pupils present (if relevant):

Section 3 – Trigger and Early Intervention

What happened immediately before the incident? (trigger):
What de-escalation or preventative strategies were attempted? (eg calm talking, redirection, time out, sensory break)

Section 4 – Reasonable Force was Used

Force was used to (tick all that apply):

☐ Prevent injury to pupil

☐ Prevent injury to others

☐ Prevent serious damage to property

☐ Prevent a criminal offence

☐ Prevent serious disruption posing a safety risk

Describe the risk present:

Section 5 – Type of Intervention Used

☐ Physical restraint

☐ Non-physical restraint (blocking, guiding)

☐ Seclusion (supervised isolation)

Describe exactly what was done: (Include position, duration, and how force was reduced)

Duration of intervention:

Section 6 – Injury of Medical Check

Was anyone injured? ☐ No ☐ Yes – Pupil ☐ Yes – Staff

Details of injury (if any):

Medical attention required? ☐ No ☐ Yes – describe:

Section 7 – Post Incident Support

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Support given to pupil:				
Support given to staff:				
Was a debrief completed?	☐ Yes	☐ No		

Behaviour support plan reviewed?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Not applicable

Section 8 – Parent/Carer Notification

Parent/carer informed:	☐ Yes	☐ No		
Method:	☐ Phone	☐ Email	☐ Letter	☐ Meeting
Date & time informed:				
Name of person who informed parent:				

Summary of information shared:

Section 9 – Follow Up Action

Any changes required to support plan/risk assessment?		
Referred to SENCo / DSL / SLT?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Further actions needed:

Section 10 – Signatures

Staff signature:	Date:
SLT review signature:	Date:
Governor review (if required):	Date:

Data Protection Note: This record is confidential and must be stored securely in line with GDPR and school policy.

A copy of this form must be sent to; (please tick to confirm)
Headmaster/Deputy Head
Designated Safeguarding Lead