



Use of Restrictive Interventions Policy

POLICY OWNER

Laura Kerr/Christian Lim
Headteachers

DELEGATION

Full Governing Board

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admin@alfredsutton.reading.sch.uk
Admin@redlands.reading.sch.uk

Alfred Sutton Primary School
148 Wokingham Road
Reading
RG6 7BL
DFE No: 870/2000
www.alfredsutton.primary.co.uk

Redlands Primary School
Lydford Road
Reading
RG1 5QH
DFE No: 870/2018
www.redlandsschool.co.uk

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1. Aims and scope

At the East Reading Federation, we strive to create a safe, secure and supportive environment for all our pupils and staff.

There are times when the use of restrictive interventions, including reasonable force and seclusion, is lawful and necessary to keep people safe. However, we understand that the use of restrictive interventions can have a significant impact on pupils, staff and parents/carers. In our school, they are only ever considered as a last resort, once all other prevention and de-escalation strategies have been exhausted.

The Department for Education (2026) makes clear that schools must not only ensure the lawful use of force, but must actively reduce the need for its use through prevention, early intervention and de-escalation.

Reading Borough Council (RBC) strengthens this expectation further by requiring schools to adopt a proactive, graduated, trauma-informed approach, ensuring that restrictive interventions are embedded within a wider system of analysis, planning and review rather than isolated responses.

This policy aims to:

- Minimise the need to use restrictive interventions, through early support, prevention and de-escalation strategies
- Help school staff feel confident in knowing how to use restrictive interventions safely, appropriately and lawfully, when they are necessary
- Clearly set out the steps for recording and reporting incidents of reasonable force, seclusion and restraint
- Protect the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all pupils and staff, and help create a positive and safe place for everyone at school
-
- Our approach is grounded in the belief that behaviour is not simply a matter of compliance, but is influenced by:
 -
 - Emotional regulation
 - Cognitive load and learning access
 - Past experiences, including trauma
 - Communication and unmet need
 - Rationale
 -
 - Therapeutic Thinking emphasises that children behave well when they are able to, and that when they are not, adults must respond with curiosity, co-regulation and teaching, rather than control.
 -
 - RBC's Consistent Approaches framework further reinforces that barriers to learning (attention, memory, processing) directly impact behaviour, and therefore behaviour support must be integrated with teaching, curriculum and environment.
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- As a result, we commit to:
 - High expectation, low threat practice
 - Adults acting as co-regulators rather than controllers
 - Explicit teaching of behaviour and routines
 - Consistent, predictable environments
 - A culture of analysis rather than judgement
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- › Restrictive intervention is therefore understood not as behaviour management, but as a safeguarding response to immediate risk.

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2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education (DfE) [guidance on restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools](#). It also meets the requirements of:

- › [Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- › Section 93A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, inserted by the [Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009](#)
- › [Section 550ZA](#) and [section 550ZB](#) of the Education Act 1996
- › [Equality Act 2010](#)
- › [Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](#) and associated regulations
- › [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- › [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- › [The Schools \(Recording and Reporting of Seclusion and Restraint\) \(No. 2\) \(England\) Regulations 2025](#)
- › Department for Education guidance on [searching, screening and confiscation](#)

3. Definitions

The terms we use in this policy are defined as follows. These definitions are based on the Department for Education's guidance on restrictive interventions (linked to in section 2 of this policy).

- › **Restrictive interventions** are used to prevent, restrict or subdue movement of the body or part of the body. This policy uses 'restrictive interventions' as the umbrella term to describe both physical and non-physical actions aimed to restrain pupils in different ways.
- › Examples of restrictive interventions could include:
 - Supervised seclusion of a pupil in an area away from others, where the pupil is prevented from leaving for their own safety and/or the safety of others
 - Passive physical contact, such as a staff member blocking a pupil's path if they're running towards danger (like a busy road), or staff standing between pupils to prevent a fight
- › **Reasonable force** refers to the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to restrain children, using no more force than is needed for the least amount of time, the application of which will depend on the circumstances.
- › Examples of the use of reasonable force could include
 - A staff member guiding a pupil to safety by the arm
 - Staff breaking up a fight between pupils
 - A staff member restraining a pupil to prevent injury to the pupil, or others
- › **Restraint** is a form of non-disciplinary intervention which immobilises a pupil or limits their movement. This may or may not include direct physical contact. Non-force restraint is still considered a restrictive intervention and must only be used when necessary, proportionate and risk-based. Non-force restraint must not be used for compliance, low level disruption or as part of routine behaviour management.
- › Examples could include:

- A staff member holding a pupil's arms to their sides when the pupil is attempting to harm themselves or others
- Removing a pupil's crutches
- Standing in a doorway or position to block a pupil from leaving a space
- Standing between pupils to prevent a fight or escalation
- Removing an object from a pupil that poses a risk
- Using presence or positioning to restrict access to an area or person
- **Seclusion** is a non-disciplinary intervention that keeps a pupil confined to a place away from others and prevents them from leaving, for the safety of that pupil and/or others. This could be through physical obstruction or by making the pupil believe that they will be punished if they leave. For example, putting a pupil into a 'holding' room until they calm down is a form of seclusion.
 - See section 3.2 of this policy for more information on seclusion.
- A **significant incident** is any incident where the use of force goes beyond appropriate physical contact between a member of staff and a pupil. This includes when physical force is used to implement a non-physical restrictive intervention. Significant non-force restraint, including blocking, removing an object, or standing between pupils, must be recorded. Parents will be informed in line with the reporting procedures for physical force, seclusion and significant incidences.
 - See section 3.1 of this policy for more information on appropriate physical contact.

3.1 Appropriate physical contact with pupils

Our school does not have a 'no contact' policy. We do not grant any requests by parents/carers or staff members not to use reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions.

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff to have some physical contact with pupils which does not give rise to any question over the use of reasonable force or other restrictive interventions.

Examples include:

- Providing first aid to a pupil
- Guiding or escorting a pupil through the school building or on a school trip by holding their hand
- Comforting a pupil who is upset
- Offering congratulations or praise, such as with a pat on the back or handshake
- To demonstrate how to use a musical instrument
- When demonstrating exercises or techniques during PE lessons or sports coaching

In assessing whether physical contact is appropriate in any given situation, staff should use their professional judgement, and have regard to:

- Our school's child protection and safeguarding policy
- The specific circumstances, such as whether there are other adults present
- Factors including, but not limited to:
 - The pupil's age

- Any known vulnerabilities, including whether the pupil has special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)
- Whether any alternative strategies that don't involve physical contact can be used

3.2 Seclusion

As defined above, seclusion is a non-disciplinary intervention that keeps a pupil confined to a place away from others and prevents them from leaving, for the safety of that pupil and/or others. This could be through physical obstruction or by making the pupil believe that they will be punished if they leave. For example, putting a pupil into a 'holding' room until they calm down is a form of seclusion.

Seclusion must never be used for staff convenience, to manage staffing pressures, or as a substitute for appropriate support, supervision or reasonable adjustments. We only use seclusion as a safety measure when a pupil is experiencing high levels of emotional or behavioural dysregulation. Seclusion is not used as a threat or punishment. Seclusion is not a disciplinary response to deliberate or wilful misbehaviour.

Please see our behaviour policy for information on our response to misbehaviour. Its use is strictly limited to situations where there is an immediate and significant risk of harm to the pupil and/or others, and where all reasonable prevention and de-escalation strategies have been explored or exhausted.

During seclusion:

- The pupil will be secluded in a safe place that does not feel threatening or intimidating to them. Possible places within the school are
ASPS: The Hive, break out rooms, the libraries
Redlands: The Den/Hub, the libraries
- Other seclusion spaces may be used; however, spaces can only be used if they are:
- **safe, ventilated, supervised, free from hazards, observable, and staff can enter immediately.**
- The pupil will be supervised at all times, by at least 1 member of staff
- As soon as the immediate risk of harm has reduced, the pupil will be allowed to leave.

Any incident involving the use of seclusion will be recorded and reported in accordance with the procedures set out in section 12 of this policy.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The governing board

- The named governors for monitoring restrictive intervention are: Dave Dymond and Katherine Fowler

The governing board is responsible for:

- Reviewing and approving this policy
- Ensuring that a procedure is in place for recording and reporting each:
 - Significant incident involving force
 - Seclusion incident
 - Restraint incident

- Taking all reasonable steps to ensure that the procedures for recording and reporting the use of force, seclusion and restraint are followed
- Regularly reviewing and interrogating data on the use of restrictive interventions in our school
- Supporting and challenging school leaders to identify where changes may be needed to practice. For example:
 - If approaches have been used for some time but haven't been effective
 - If there is any disproportionate use of restrictive interventions, including in relation to pupils who share protected characteristics or have SEND or other types of vulnerabilities
-

4.2 The headteacher and deputy head teachers (DHTs)

The headteacher and deputy headteachers are responsible for:

- Overall implementation and oversight of this policy
- Making sure that appropriate and high-quality training on preventative strategies and the safe and lawful use of restrictive interventions is provided for staff who need it, based on our school's individual context and needs
- Ensuring adequate staffing levels to support positive behaviour management
- Monitoring incidents involving restrictive interventions, including regular review of incidents to refine and improve processes
- Ensuring compliance with recording and reporting requirements
- Authorising staff to search a pupil or their belongings if they have good reason to think the pupil has a prohibited or banned item
- Following the procedures set out in our complaints policy to deal with any complaint about the use of restrictive interventions
- Following the statutory safeguarding guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) if an allegation regarding inappropriate use of force and/or other restrictive intervention is made against a member of staff

4.3 All staff

All members of staff are responsible for:

- Understanding and following this policy and any other linked policies
- Prioritising **prevention and de-escalation** at all times to try to minimise and prevent the need for restrictive interventions
- Using restrictive intervention **only when necessary and proportionate**
- Accurately recording every seclusion incident, restraint incident and significant incident involving force that they are involved in, including reporting incidents **immediately** to a Phase Lead/AHT and the Inclusion Lead/DSL
- Completing accurate written records **on the same day**
- Participating in:
 - Debrief processes
 - Training and professional development
- Recording any injuries that occur as part of an incident involving restrictive intervention, and following our health and safety policy to ensure these are reported to the Health and Safety Executive where necessary

- › Taking part in training on preventative strategies and the safe and lawful use of restrictive interventions, if relevant to their role (this may include additional training appropriate to their responsibilities)
- › Engaging in follow-up conversation(s) to debrief and reflect on incidents involving restrictive intervention that they were involved in, to help us understand what happened and why and reduce the likelihood in the future
- › No member of staff will be required or compelled to use restrictive physical intervention. Staff who do not feel safe or confident to intervene physically should follow agreed procedures, including summoning trained colleagues, removing other pupils from danger, and seeking senior support.

4.4 Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

The DSL is responsible for:

- › Reporting every seclusion incident, restraint incident and significant incident involving force to each parent/carer of the pupil involved
- › Making sure records are kept securely and in accordance with safeguarding and data protection procedures
- › Contacting the local authority in cases where informing a pupil's parent/carer of the use of reasonable force, seclusion or restraint on their child would put that child at risk of significant harm (see sections 12.2 and 12.3 of this policy)

4.5 Inclusion Lead

The Inclusion Lead is responsible for:

- › Reporting to the local authority at the earliest point where children need regular co-regulation to prevent harm and always after the first use of Restrictive Intervention
- › Reporting every seclusion incident, restraint incident and significant incident involving force to each parent/carer of the pupil involved
- › Making sure records are kept securely and in accordance with safeguarding and data protection procedures
- › Working with pupils, parents/carers and relevant school staff to develop and review behaviour support plans and risk assessments for any pupils with SEND where it's been identified that there is an increased likelihood of the need to use restrictive interventions
- › Ensuring staff are aware of individual pupil needs and associated behaviour support strategies
- › Working with staff who know pupils well, to identify and manage risk (such as trigger points when challenging behaviour is more likely to occur)
- › Working with pupils, parents/carers, staff and other relevant professionals to develop prevention and de-escalation strategies
- › Advising on reasonable adjustments for any pupils with disabilities when considering prevention and de-escalation strategies
- › Participating in the review of restrictive intervention incidents involving any pupil with SEND
- › Providing advice and support on the application of this policy for pupils with SEND
- › Contributing to staff training on SEND and behaviour management, including the use of restrictive interventions

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› 4.6 Assistant Headteachers (AHTs) and Phase Leads

- › Assistant Headteachers and Phase Leads play a **key operational role** in the immediate management of incidents.

➤ They are responsible for:

- Acting as the **first point of escalation** following any incident involving restrictive intervention
- Ensuring that:
 - Incidents are **recorded accurately and on the same day**
 - All required information is included in the record
- Making **initial contact with parents/carers**, ensuring:
 - Communication is timely (same day)
 - Information is clear, factual and supportive
- Quality assuring incident reports before they are finalised
- Identifying any immediate concerns, including:
 - Safeguarding risks
 - Staff practice issues
 - Pupil vulnerability
- Escalating concerns to the Inclusion Lead/DSL and, where necessary, to DHTs or the Headteacher
- Ensuring that their team:
 - Understand and follow the policy
 - Engage in debrief and reflection following incidents

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5. Acceptable uses of force

All our school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force in certain situations.

Staff can use reasonable force to prevent or stop a pupil from:

- Hurting themselves or others
- Committing a criminal offence
- Damaging property
- Causing disorder among pupils, in or out of lessons

While all staff have this power, some staff, especially those who work closely with pupils who might show challenging behaviour, are more likely to need to use it than others.

We will ensure staff are adequately trained and that risk assessments are carried out where necessary. See section 11 of this policy for information on training and risk assessments.

Any significant incident involving the use of force will be recorded and reported in accordance with the procedures set out in section 12 of this policy.

6. Unacceptable uses of force

It is illegal to use force on a pupil for the purpose of punishment. We never use force as a sanction, threat or deterrent.

Our staff understand that any form of force or restraint carries a risk of physical and psychological harm, so we always avoid using these measures where possible.

The following uses of force are **never acceptable**:

- Staff using force for the purpose of punishment
- Staff restraining a pupil in a way that affects their airway, breathing or circulation, for example by covering their nose and/or mouth or applying pressure to their neck or abdomen
- Staff using force on the ground. If a pupil is unintentionally held on the ground, staff should release their hold or move into a safer position as quickly as possible
- Using restrictive intervention to enforce compliance
- Using restrictive intervention to address low-level disruption
- Using restrictive intervention as a routine or planned behaviour strategy
- Section 5 of this policy sets out the instances where staff may use reasonable force. Section 9 of this policy provides guidance for staff on what to consider before using it.
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7. Using reasonable force to search pupils

The headteacher and any member of staff authorised by the headteacher have a statutory power to search a pupil or their belongings if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil may have a prohibited item (as listed in the DfE's [searching, screening and confiscation guidance](#)) or an item banned under our school rules.

They **can** use reasonable force to search for prohibited items (as listed in the DfE's searching, screening and confiscation guidance), such as knives, weapons, stolen items or illegal drugs. They **cannot** use reasonable force to search for items that are banned under our school rules only, such as mobile phones.

The decision to use reasonable force to carry out a search should be made carefully, on a case-by-case basis and taking into consideration the level of risk to pupils and staff. Please see our behaviour policy for more information on how we conduct searches.

8. Prevention and de-escalation strategies

Restrictive intervention is used only when necessary. We aim to minimise its use as much as possible, using both whole-school and individual approaches.

Our whole-school approach includes:

At the East Reading Federation, our whole-school approach is designed to prevent dysregulation, reduce barriers to learning and promote positive behaviour through consistent, high-quality practice across all areas of the school.

We recognise that behaviour is closely linked to learning, emotional regulation and environment, and therefore our approach integrates curriculum, teaching, relationships and routines.

High-quality teaching and curriculum design

- Teaching that is carefully sequenced and delivered using evidence-informed approaches (e.g. principles of instruction, WalkThrus)
- Breaking learning into small, manageable steps to reduce cognitive overload

- Regular checking for understanding to ensure pupils feel successful and confident
- Adaptive teaching that supports all pupils, including those with SEND, to access learning
- A curriculum that builds knowledge over time, supporting pupils to feel secure and capable

Consistent routines and expectations

- Clearly defined and explicitly taught routines across all areas of school life (e.g. transitions, classroom behaviour, playtimes)
- Regular rehearsal and reinforcement of routines until they become automatic
- Consistent use of shared language and expectations by all staff
- Visual supports and clear instructions to support understanding and predictability

Relational and therapeutic practice

- Adults act as co-regulators, supporting pupils to manage their emotions rather than controlling behaviour
- Staff use calm, predictable responses and are trained in de-escalation strategies
- A culture of curiosity, where staff seek to understand the underlying causes of behaviour
- Positive framing, praise and recognition of success
- Restorative conversations to repair relationships following incidents

Positive behaviour culture

- High expectations for all pupils, with behaviour explicitly taught, modelled and practised
- Consistent use of recognition and reinforcement to promote positive behaviour
- Educational and restorative consequences that help pupils learn from behaviour
- A shared understanding that behaviour is not innate and must be taught

Environmental design and predictability

- Classrooms and shared spaces are calm, organised and free from unnecessary sensory distractions
- Transitions are carefully managed and clearly signposted
- Quiet or low-arousal spaces are available where needed
- Predictable structures and routines are embedded throughout the school day

Targeted support and early intervention

- Early identification of pupils at risk of dysregulation or distress
- Use of behaviour support plans and risk assessments where appropriate
- Adaptations to teaching, environment and support based on individual need

- Close working with families and external professionals (e.g. RISE, EPS)
- Regular review of support through a graduated approach (assess–plan–do–review)

Staff training and development

- Ongoing professional development in:
 - Behaviour as communication
 - De-escalation and co-regulation
 - Adaptive teaching and inclusion
- Coaching and monitoring to ensure consistent implementation across the school
- Clear expectations and shared understanding of effective practice

Monitoring, reflection and continuous improvement

- Regular analysis of behaviour and incident data to identify patterns and trends
- Use of learning walks, book looks and pupil voice to evaluate practice
- Ongoing refinement of approaches based on evidence and need
- Leadership oversight to ensure consistency and impact

8.1 De-escalation when a situation arises

When a staff member is faced with a situation where a restrictive intervention may need to be used, they should consider using de-escalation techniques first, wherever possible. Techniques that could be used in these situations include:

- › Having open body language and being aware of a pupil's personal space
- › Taking a pupil away from an 'audience' – speaking to them on their own rather than in front of a group of other pupils or staff
- › Using empathy – asking the pupil to help you understand their feelings
- › Distraction techniques
- › Offering a calm space for the pupil to go to so they can self-regulate
- › Verbal warnings – calmly reminding the pupil of the consequences of their behaviour
- ›

9. Deciding when the use of restrictive interventions is appropriate

9.1 Necessity and proportionality

The decision on whether to use restrictive interventions is down to the professional judgment of the staff member and will always depend on the individual circumstances of each situation.

Staff should always consider whether there are other ways to manage the situation, such as the de-escalation techniques outlined in section 8.1 of this policy and/or seeking assistance from a

colleague. However, there may be times when staff have no other choice but to use restrictive interventions, to reduce the risk of harm to the pupil and/or others.

When assessing whether a restrictive intervention is required, staff should always consider:

➤ **Is it necessary?**

- Are there other more effective, less restrictive ways to manage the situation?
- Is a restrictive intervention likely to successfully reduce the risks, or could its use escalate the situation further or cause more harm than the behaviour itself?

➤ **Is it proportionate?**

- Staff should use the **least** amount of force or the **least** restrictive intervention for the **least** amount of time required to reduce the risks
- If the intervention itself is escalating the situation, staff should reconsider their approach and attempt an alternative strategy
- Staff should consider the individual circumstances of the pupil, such as their age, size and any medical conditions, SEND or other vulnerabilities

9.2 Pupil and staff welfare

Pupil welfare

The most important consideration when using a restrictive intervention is the safety and wellbeing of the pupil involved, as well as the safety of other pupils and staff. Staff should always consider the potential impact on the pupil's welfare balanced against any actions taken. For example, staff should bear in mind that pupils who have experienced adverse life events, trauma or neglect, or who have diagnosed or undiagnosed medical conditions or sensory impairments, communication difficulties or other needs, may find the use of restrictive interventions particularly distressing.

If a restrictive intervention is needed, staff should always aim to maintain respect for a pupil's dignity. This includes consideration of the location and environment where any intervention is used, such as in front of their peers.

Staff should, wherever possible, clearly and calmly communicate to the pupil what is happening, why, and what the pupil needs to do, including using verbal and non-verbal strategies where needed, and giving time for the pupil to process information and respond where appropriate.

Staff should seek to understand how the pupil is feeling and use this information to determine whether the restrictive intervention should be, or continue to be, applied, reduced or stopped.

Support following an incident

As soon as possible after any use of restrictive intervention, our school will evaluate the incident to understand why restrictive intervention was used, the impact on pupils and staff, any patterns and trends, and how another incident could be avoided in the future.

Our school will make sure each pupil and staff member involved get the right support, including a medical assessment and treatment if needed, and an opportunity to reflect on and talk through the incident.

This follow-up conversation(s) will be part of the overall debriefing process to understand what happened during the incident and why, based on separate reflections from all parties involved. Conversations should also aim to repair and rebuild relationships through dialogue.

Wherever possible, this process will be facilitated by a staff member who was not involved in the incident. It may also include the presence of an additional person to ensure impartiality and support. The school will continue to monitor pupil and staff wellbeing and provide additional support if needed.

Depending on the circumstances, support may also be offered to those who witnessed the incident.

10. Considerations for pupils with SEND

We understand that pupils with SEND may react to distressing or confusing situations by displaying behaviours which may be harmful to themselves and others. Pupils who have difficulty communicating verbally might show their needs and discomfort through their actions.

Our school is committed to understanding what might trigger challenging behaviour in pupils with SEND, and to providing the right support and an inclusive environment.

We will carry out risk assessments for pupils with SEND, where we identify that there is an increased likelihood of needing to use reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions. Our school is aware of its duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities to avoid disadvantage and ensure they can take part in school life as fully as possible.

We will utilise staff who know individual pupils well to help identify and manage risk, such as trigger points when challenging behaviour is more likely to occur, and develop proactive strategies to reduce the likelihood of restrictive interventions being used. We will also work with the pupil, their parents/carers and other professionals to develop prevention and de-escalation strategies.

These strategies might include:

- Removing stimuli that may be causing distress to the pupil
- Staff members changing how they communicate with the pupil, such as being more mindful of body language, facial expressions and/or tone of voice
- Helping the pupil express their emotions before getting overwhelmed
- Engaging the pupil in activities to help them regulate their emotions
- Distracting the pupil with familiar objects or activities to redirect their attention

Where appropriate, we will create individual support plans for pupils with SEND. The plan will be reviewed regularly, and following any significant incident, with the pupil and parents/carers to make sure it's still working well. The plan will:

- Outline any adjustments, such as to address aspects of the school environment which the pupil finds challenging
- Explain the best ways to communicate with the pupil
- In some cases, specify when increased physical contact with staff might be appropriate. These situations will be discussed with everyone involved and clearly written down in the plan

11. Training and risk assessments

Our school will make sure that all staff who are likely to need to use reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions are adequately trained in their safe and lawful use and in preventative strategies.

We also have a duty to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our staff. Therefore, we carry out risk assessments to ensure that staff who regularly work alongside pupils where the use of reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions may be required can do so as safely as possible.

12. Recording and reporting arrangements

We have a legal duty to record and report all:

- Significant incidents involving force (see section 3 of this policy for a definition of 'significant incident')
- Seclusion incidents
- Restraint incidents

12.1 Recording incidents

Recording and reporting duties in relation to restrictive interventions arise from two distinct but complementary statutory frameworks. The recording and reporting of significant incidents involving the use of force are required under statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education pursuant to section 93A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. In addition, the Schools (Recording and Reporting of Seclusion and Restraint) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2025 place statutory duties on schools to record and report incidents involving seclusion and non-force related restraint. This policy reflects and complies with both frameworks.

Our school has a clear process in place for recording the incidents listed above.

Staff must record incidents in writing, as soon as possible after the event. In Reading schools, the expectation is: parents to receive written information on the same day for force, seclusion or restraint, including time, date, location, duration, reason, type/degree of force, injuries, SEND/relevant needs, de-escalation steps and post-incident support. This should be completed even if the use of restrictive interventions is agreed as part of a pupil's behaviour support plan.

Parents/carers will receive same-day verbal communication and a written report no later than the end of the same school day, unless doing so would place the pupil at risk of significant harm.

For significant incidents involving force, we will record:

- The names of the pupil and staff members directly involved
- Any relevant needs or circumstances of the pupil, including whether they have an identified special educational need or disability, and their SEN status code
- The time, date, location and approximate duration of the intervention
- A clear and brief description of what happened, including:
 - What led up to the incident
 - Any known or potential triggers for the behaviour
 - Any preventative or de-escalation strategies used
 - The type and degree of reasonable force used
 - Details of any physical injuries sustained, if applicable
- A brief explanation of why using force was assessed as necessary in that situation

- › Details of any support given after the incident, such as medical help or emotional support
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› **Leadership oversight and quality assurance**

- › Once the record is completed:

- › The Phase Lead/AHT will:

- Review the report for accuracy and completeness
- Ensure that statutory requirements have been met
- Initiate initial contact with parents/carers

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- › The Inclusion Lead/DSL will:

- Review the incident from a safeguarding perspective
- Identify any concerns regarding:
 - Pupil vulnerability
 - Staff practice
 - Emerging patterns
- Determine whether further action or escalation is required

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- › Where necessary, the incident will be escalated to:

- Deputy Headteachers (DHTs)
- Headteacher (HT)

› **Storage and confidentiality**

- › All records are stored securely on CPOMS in line with safeguarding and data protection procedures

- › Access to records is restricted to relevant staff only

- › Records form part of the school's safeguarding documentation and may be shared with external agencies where appropriate

For seclusion incidents and restraint incidents, we will record:

- › The names of the pupil and staff members directly involved
- › Any relevant needs or circumstances of the pupil, including whether they have an identified special educational need or disability, and their SEN status code
- › The time, date, location and approximate duration of the intervention
- › A brief explanation of why the intervention was assessed as necessary in that situation
- › Details of any physical injuries sustained, if applicable
- › Details of any support given after the incident, such as medical help or emotional support
- › **Note:** if a seclusion or restraint incident also constitutes a significant incident involving force, we will record it in line with our procedure for recording significant incidents involving force. It does not need to be recorded twice.

Completed reports will be kept securely and retained in line with our data protection procedures.

12.2 Reporting incidents to parents/carers

When reporting an incident to parents/carers, we will take the following steps:

We will inform parents/carers about an incident as soon as we can after it happens and will endeavour to do this on the same day. We will do this even if the use of restrictive interventions is agreed as part of a pupil's behaviour support plan.

- If a member of staff thinks that telling the pupil's parents/carers would likely result in significant harm to that pupil. In these cases, we will report the incident to any parent(s)/carer(s) who it can be reported to without resulting in significant harm or, if there are none, to the local authority where the pupil ordinarily resides (see section 12.3 of this policy)

When we report **significant incidents involving force** to parents/carers, we will include the following details:

- The time, date, location and approximate duration of the intervention
- A brief explanation of why the intervention was assessed as necessary in that situation
- A short description of the type and degree of force that was used
- Details of any physical injuries sustained, if applicable
- A short description of any further support the school feels may be within the remit of the local authority

When we report **seclusion incidents and restraint incidents** to parents/carers, we will provide parents/carers with a copy of our written record of the incident.

Note: if a seclusion or restraint incident also constitutes a significant incident involving force, we will report it in line with our procedure for reporting significant incidents involving force. It does not need to be reported twice.

When reporting to parents/carers, we will have regard to data protection requirements when deciding what information to share. For example, we will not include any identifying details of any other pupil.

Following up with parents/carers after an incident

It's best practice to invite parents/carers to have a follow-up discussion about the incident, where appropriate. After initially contacting parent, we will seek a meeting to discuss:

- Any behavioural triggers or warning signs of an impending incident
- Whether any agreed behaviour support plans were followed

- › What de-escalation strategies were used and how effective they were
- › What might be done differently in the future
- › What further advice or support the school may need/which external professionals should be consulted

12.3 Reporting incidents to the local authority

In cases where we have assessed that an incident needs to be reported to the local authority where the pupil ordinarily resides (as outlined in section 12.2), this report will include all the information that we would normally share with the pupil's parents/carers, as well as the reasons why we thought it was unsafe to tell the pupil's parents/carers directly.

In cases where a pupil has parents/carers and is the subject of a care order under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 or is being accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, we will report the incident to the relevant local authority in addition to the parents/carers (unless we deem it unsafe to inform the parents/carers, as set out in section 12.2 of this policy).

13. Complaints and allegations

Any complaints about the use of restrictive interventions will be handled through our school's complaints policy, which you can find on the school website. Hard copies are available on request from the school office.

We take any allegation of inappropriate use of force and/or other restrictive interventions made against a member of staff very seriously. We will deal with allegations in line with the statutory safeguarding guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

14. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteachers and Inclusion Leads.

At every review, this policy will be approved by the full governing body.

15. Links with other policies

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- › This policy links to the following policies and procedures:
- › Behaviour policy
- › Child protection and safeguarding policy
- › Complaints policy
- › Health and safety policy
- Inclusion policy