



The Trent-Rylands Federation

Trent Vale Infant and Nursery School and Beeston Rylands Junior School



Physical Intervention and Restrictive Practice Policy (Use of Reasonable Force)

INTRODUCTION

- This policy will be **REVIEWED ANNUALLY**

Date of review	Autumn 2025	Autumn 2026	Autumn 2027
Signed			

1) Introduction

The use of Restrictive Practices Policy has been developed to ensure that staff, pupils, parents/carers, and governors have an understanding of school guidelines for supporting pupils who have reached crisis point and are displaying behaviours that may put themselves or others in physical danger. Following these guidelines will ensure pupils are able to learn, and staff are able to teach, in a safe and secure environment. This Policy will be applied consistently to pupils regardless of their age, SEND, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, race, faith background or personal circumstances. Respect for these protected characteristics will be considered as an important part of the whole school Inclusive practice and ethos. Physical Intervention or Restrictive Practice is traumatising for all people involved and their use often damages relationships.

'Physical restraint can be humiliating, terrifying and even life-threatening. It should only be used as the last resort, when there is no other way of de-escalating a situation where someone may harm themselves or others' (Campbell, 2018).

As a school, we are committed to reducing the need to use restrictive practices. We recognise that restrictive physical interventions are only entered into as a last resort when dealing with potentially dangerous situations, where there is a risk of harm to children or adults. Restrictive physical interventions must only be used in a person's best interest and comply with **The Trent Rylands Federation's** duty of care to students, staff, and visitors.

This policy has been prepared using the following guidance:

- [Reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [Keeping children safe in education 2025: part one \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [Reasonable force, restraint & restrictive practices in alternative provision and special schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [Reducing restrictive practices framework \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)
- [TSS diagram REVISED \(restraintreductionnetwork.org\)](https://restraintreductionnetwork.org)
- Education and Inspections Act 2006 - Section 93
- BILD code of Practice for minimizing the use of restrictive physical interventions; 4th Edition (BILD 2014)
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This policy is available:

- Online at TRF Website .

- From the school offices

2) The Legal Framework

Restrictive Practices

The key principle which underpins our decisions about the use of restrictive practices is that their use should be as minimal as possible whilst ensuring the safety of the child, other children, and the adults working with them. There will be occasions when to ensure safety and to minimise the risk of harm, adults may need to physically intervene, restrain a child, or impose a restriction on their liberty.

Restraint and deprivation of liberty

Restraint in relation to a child is only permitted for the purpose of preventing— (a) injury to any person (including the child); (b) serious damage to the property of any person (including the child). (2) Restraint in relation to a child must be necessary and proportionate.

Seclusion

“Seclusion involves separating an adult or child against their will, restricting freedom of movement and forcing them to spend time alone.” Joint guidance from the Department of Health and DFES (July 2002)

Seclusion may only be used when:

A pupil is posing a risk of injury to themselves or others due to behaviours such as biting, head butting, kicking and they need time in a **safe environment** with a trusted adult to help them calm. No child should be left in isolation within a contained environment with locked doors or barriers in place which places the child's well-being and/or safeguarding at risk.

Staff Authorised to Use Reasonable Force

Under Section 93 of the Education and Inspection Act (2006) and subsequent guidance published by the DfE in January 2016 entitled 'Behaviour and Discipline in Schools – Guidance for Headteachers and Staff' the Headteacher at our school is empowered to authorise those members of his/her staff to use reasonable force.

Here at **The Trent Rylands Federation** the Headteachers have empowered the following members of staff to use reasonable force:

- Teachers and any member of staff who have direct responsibility and a duty of care of pupils in school
- Other members of staff such as site management and administrative teams also have the power to use reasonable force if a circumstance should arise in which immediate action should be taken to reduce the risk of harm

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and their Deputies in our Federation are : BRJS – Catherine Turner , Sue Osborne, Karthryn Harby : TV – Janine Barratt, Sue Osborne, Michelle Gough. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all, however all staff, parents/carers and pupils need to be aware of who to report to and how to report any safeguarding concerns.

The nominated Governors with responsibility for Behaviour are Lisa Shepherd and Alistair Mc Pherson.

Deciding Whether to Use Reasonable Force

Under Section 93 of the Education and Inspection Act (2006), members of staff are empowered to use reasonable force to prevent a pupil from or stop them continuing:

- *committing any offence*
- *causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself); or*
- *prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise*

All members of staff will make decisions about when, how, and why to use reasonable force. To help staff in making decisions about using reasonable force the following considerations may be useful:

- whether the consequences of not intervening would have seriously endangered the wellbeing of a person
- whether the consequences of not intervening would have caused serious and significant damage to property
- whether the chance of achieving the desired outcome in a non-physical way was low
- making an assessment on the age, size, gender, developmental maturity of the persons involved

Staff will be kept informed and have a duty to inform others about the Personal Safety Plans around specific pupils who can present risks to themselves and others. This may include information about SEND, personal circumstance, and any experiences of trauma.

3) School Expectations

All staff should adopt a positive approach to improving behaviour to reward effort and build self-esteem.

We work in partnerships with those who know the child best to:

- **Establish the functions of behaviours being displayed**
- **Understand the factors that may influence a child's behaviour**
- **Identify early warning signs that indicate foreseeable behaviours are developing**

This approach will help to ensure that the use of early and proactive strategies is common practice. It aims to reduce the incidence of extreme behaviours and supports the reduction of restrictive practices in school. Staff should, where possible, avoid any type of intervention that is likely to injure a pupil, unless in the most extreme of circumstance where there was no viable alternative. Staff should try to avoid using force unless or until another member of staff is present to support, observe or call for assistance.

Reducing the need to Intervene Physically

Although preventative measures may not always work, there are several steps which can be taken to help reduce the likelihood of situations arising where the power to use force may need to be exercised:

- Creating a calm, orderly and supportive school climate that minimises the risk and threat of violence of any kind
- Developing effective relationships between pupils and staff
- Adopting a whole-school approach to Inclusive practice
- Taking a structured approach to staff development that supports staff to use positive behaviour management strategies; managing conflict and to support one another during and after an incident
- Effectively managing individual incidents using a low-arousal response. Communicate calmly with the pupil; use non-threatening verbal and body language and ensure the pupil can see a way out of a situation in a supported manner
- Teaching pupils strategies to use in a crisis (such as sensory integration, clear communication and non-verbal signals to indicate the need for support)
- Whenever practical, warning a pupil that force may have to be used before using it
- Ensuring that staff and volunteers are aware of the pupils' Personal Safety Passport or Plans and understand situations which may provoke difficult behaviour, triggers, preventative strategies, and de-escalation techniques

Key Principles surrounding the use of a restrictive physical intervention.

1. Consider if you really need to use a restrictive physical intervention. If so then use the least restrictive first and return to the least restrictive as soon as possible.
2. Staff should not enter into a restrictive physical intervention if on their own, help must always be sought.
3. Physical Interventions should be employed using the minimum reasonable force for the shortest duration of time as possible and should not cause pain.
4. Staff should be assessing signs of injury or psychological distress during and after the intervention.
5. Staff should always avoid touching or restraining a pupil in a way that could be interpreted as sexually inappropriate conduct.

Use of restrictive physical interventions in unforeseen and emergency situations.

On occasion, staff may find themselves in unforeseen or emergency situations when they have no option but to use reasonable force to manage a child in crisis. E.g. where there is a high and immediate risk of death or serious injury to the child or others. Any member of staff would be justified in taking any necessary action to safeguard the child from harm.

Staff should:

- Before using force- staff attempt to use diversion or diffusion to manage the situation.
- Staff should always report and record any use of physical intervention that occurs in unforeseen and emergency situations using school procedures.
- Parents/carers will always be informed immediately if physical force is used on their child.
- In line with Health and Safety Guidance on approved methods of physical intervention at **NO** time is a young person to be placed in a **Prone Restraint** (face down) or **basket holds or wraps** (the child's arms held around their own abdomen as these methods of restraint are barred under Health and Safety Guidance.

Safety Passports/Personal Safety Plans

All children who have the potential to display behaviours of concern either linked to SEND or Trauma will have a **Safety Passport** or **Personal Safety Plan** document which details appropriate adult responses when supporting the child through co-regulation. (Appendix A)

Staff training

All staff in school will access training on behaviour management and support through regular Personal Development Meetings and Individual Appraisal.

We will seek advice from NCC's Inclusive Behaviour Co-ordinator about the level of training considered appropriate to our setting.

In addition, all staff will have access to ongoing bespoke advice and guidance tailored to the needs of our setting through the use of anonymised consultations about the needs of individual children as and when required. Staff who receive training through NCC's Inclusive Behaviour Co-ordinator will be certified by the Local Authority for a defined period as stated on their certificate. Staff will be expected to attend a refresher course to update their skills and renew their certification every 18-24 months.

Recording and Reporting Incidents

The governing body will ensure that a procedure is in place, and is followed by staff, for recording and reporting significant incidents where a member of staff has used reasonable force on a pupil, in line with the most recent safeguarding requirements issued to Governors and the latest advice given to OFSTED inspectors.

Any use of restrictive practice is seen as significant and **must** be reported clearly and concisely as soon as practicable after the incident.

School staff should consider and include in the report:

- the pupil's behaviour and the level of risk presented at the time
- the degree of force used and whether it was proportionate in relation to the behaviour
- the effect on the pupil or member of staff

Staff should also bear in mind the age of the child; any special education need or disability or other social factors which might be relevant. Sometimes an incident might not be considered significant in itself, but forms part of a pattern of repeated behaviour. In this case, although there is no legal requirement to record such incidents, schools are advised to let parents/carers know about them.

Records are important in providing evidence of defensible decision-making in case of a subsequent complaint or investigation. Staff may find it helpful to seek the advice of a senior colleague or a representative of their trade union when compiling a report.

After incidents in which a restrictive physical intervention is used, staff should report and record the matter in accordance with school procedure, including informing parents/legal guardian. All incidents requiring the use of restrictive physical intervention should be thoroughly and systematically documented within school records using CPOMS.

The incident must be directly reported to the Headteachers, and staff involved will be debriefed to review and analyse the incident. A review and analysis of the incident will take place as soon as possible thereafter, and safety passports will be updated with the aim of ensuring any lessons are learned and any identified changes to the environment or support plans are acted upon/implemented.

4) Post-incident Support

Incidents that require use of restrictive physical interventions can be upsetting to all concerned and can result in injuries to the child or staff. After an incident has subsided, it is important to ensure that staff and children are given emotional and psychological support and basic first aid treatment for any injuries. Immediate action should, of course, be taken to ensure that medical help is accessed for any injuries that require more than basic first aid. All injuries should be reported and recorded in accordance with school procedures.

Repair and Restore Relationships through Restorative Conversations

Restrictive practice damages relationships. It is vital that the child is given the opportunity to reflect on the incident with the support of the adults involved to ensure the child's voice is captured and any restoration can be implemented as a result to repair any harm and facilitate open, direct communication.

Key questions to support a restorative conversation with the child:

- What happened?
- How did you feel.....?
- Who was affected by this?
- What needs to happen now?
- What could we have done differently?

5) Complaints and allegations

The Trent Rylands Federation will also make clear to pupils that they have a right, and are able, to question/complain about the use of reasonable force. We will ensure that mechanisms are in place for pupils, parents, carers, and staff to voice their opinions, comments, or concerns.

Complaints and allegations will be taken seriously, and should be addressed to the Head Teachers of TRF.

The role of the LADO:

Working together to Safeguard Children (2023) requires each Local Authority to have a LADO. In Nottinghamshire the role of the LADO is undertaken by the Managing Allegations Service.

The purpose of the LADO role is to address allegations/concerns made against adults working or volunteering with children in Nottinghamshire.

Working together to Safeguard Children (2024) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024) outline the criteria to be applied to allegations and concerns about an individual when it is indicated the individual may have:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children;
- Behaved or may behave in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

Concerns may relate to either a person's work/voluntary role or their behaviour outside the work setting.

LADO role in Restraints of under 18s

The LADO should be notified when:

- A child is injured or may have been injured as a result of appropriate/permitted restraint practice or actual/perceived use of excessive force,
- A child and/or parent/carer makes an allegation and/or complaint against a professional following a restraint of a child,
- A professional, other adult or child reports an observed or perceived inappropriate restraint of or practice with a child by another professional.

The responsibility of the employer/person receiving the complaint is to:

- Ensure the child is safe and refer to MASH/Police as appropriate
- Consider the actions required to safeguard this child and other children in the setting
- Refer to LADO using the LADO Online Contact Form (link below) providing clear details of the incident, the adult of concern (including personal details to safeguard the adult's own children- consider any additional voluntary roles the adult holds); details of the child and your own details.

Link to LADO online Contact Form - [Submit a LADO Contact Form](#)

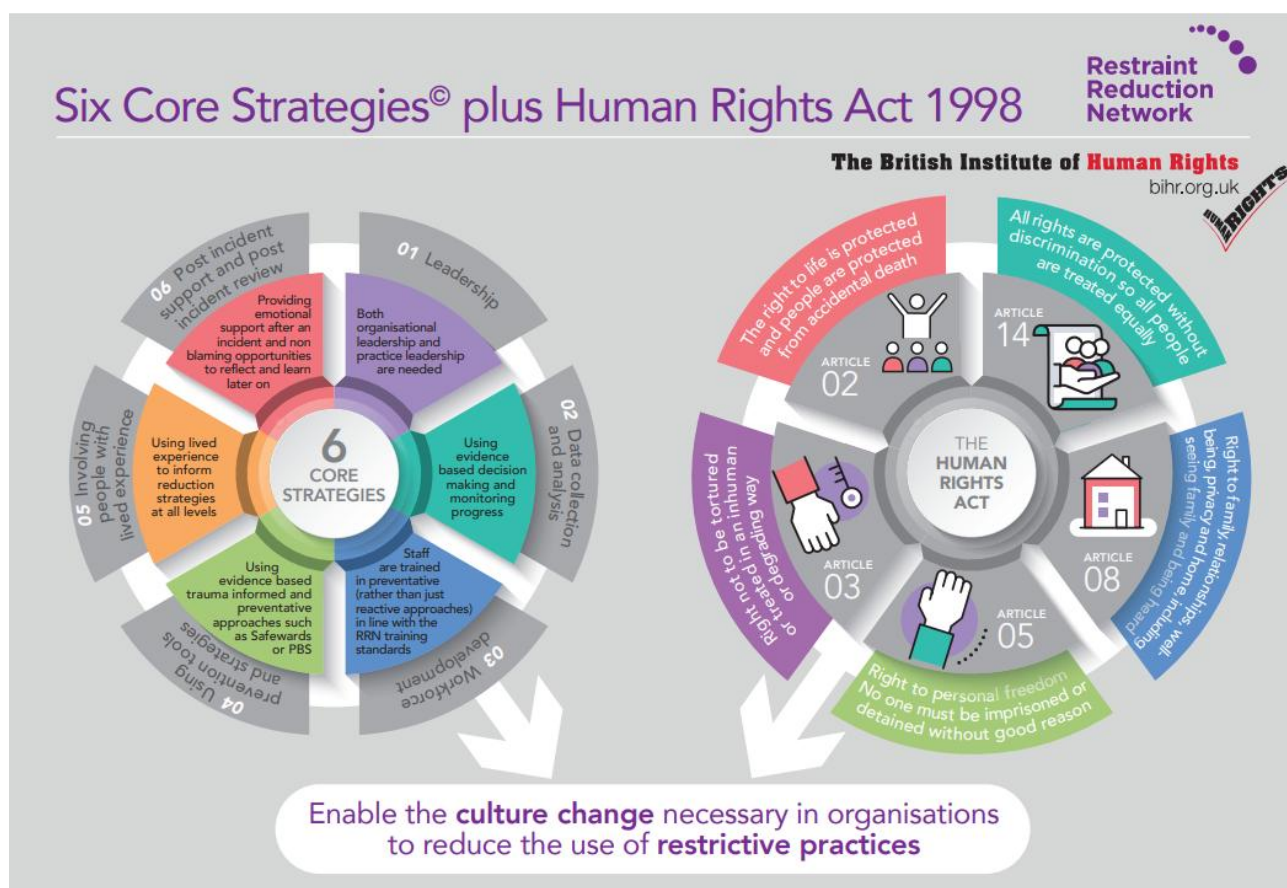
Monitoring and review

This policy will be monitored regularly and reviewed by the governing body annually or as required. This is the first version of this policy and is due to be reviewed in **November 2026**.

The Headteachers are responsible for the implementation of this policy and **Lisa Shepherd and Alistair McPherson** are the Link Governors, who also have responsibility in this area.

Date approved by the Governing Body: Nov 25 - FGM

Date to be reviewed: Nov 26 – FGM



OTHER POLICY DOCUMENTS THAT UNDERPIN THIS POLICY FOR THE USE OF PHYSICAL INTERVENTION

- SINGLE EQUALITY POLICY
- ANTI BULLYING POLICY
- PUPIL DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOUR POLICY
- NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S POLICY 'KEEPING CLASSROOMS SAFE FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING
- NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S POLICY 'PHYSICAL INTERVENTION' (Use of reasonable force)
- SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS POLICY
- CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY
- INTIMATE CARE POLICY
- DfE 'USE OF REASONABLE FORCE' advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies

Appendix 1

Safety Passport

Name _____

Things that help me to stay calm and regulated are :		
Stage 1 Anxiety Behaviours	Stage 2 Defensive Behaviours	Stage 3 Crisis Behaviours
Possible Adult Responses	Possible Adult Responses	Possible Adult Responses
Child's Voice	Child's Voice	Child's Voice

Appendix 2

Use of Physical Intervention and Restrictive Practice: Trent Rylands Federation

INCIDENT RECORD

Details of pupil or pupils on whom force was used by a member of staff, (name, class)	
Date, time and location of incident	
Names of staff involved, (directly or as witnesses)	
Details of other pupils involved, (directly or as witnesses), including whether any of the pupils involved were vulnerable for SEN, disability, medical or social reasons	
Description of incident by the staff involved, including any attempts to de-escalate and warnings given that force might be used	
Reason for using force and description of force used	
Any injury suffered by staff or pupils and any first aid and/or medical attention required	
Reasons for making a record of the incident	
Follow up, including post-incident support and any disciplinary action against pupils	
Any information about the incident shared with staff not involved in it, and external agencies	
When and how those with parental responsibility were informed about the incident and any views they have expressed	
Has any complaint been lodged, (details should not be recorded here)?	
Report compiled by:	Report countersigned by:
Name: Role: Signature: Date:	Name: Role: Signature: Date:

