



BELMONT SCHOOL
 (Additionally Resourced Mainstream School)

**Physical Intervention and Use of
 Reasonable Force Policy**

SEPTEMBER 2025



<p>UNCRC Article 19 - Every child has the right to protection Global Goal 3 - Good Health and Well-being Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages Global Goal 10 - Reduced Inequalities Reduce inequality within and among countries.</p>	
Head Teacher	
Name	Mrs P Aggarwall
Chair of Governors	
Name	Mr Manji Kara
Date Ratified	14 th October 2025
Review Date	July 2026

Belmont School fully recognises the responsibility it has under section 157 of the Education Act 2002 to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This policy is a whole school policy and applies to all pupils. Care and consideration will be given to the age of the child when following the guidance in this policy.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and contractors, paid and unpaid, working in the school including governors.

This policy has been written using advice taken from Use of Reasonable Force, Advice for Headteachers, staff and Governing Bodies DfE 2013.

The school acknowledges its legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEND). Equality Act 2010, SEN and Disability Code of Practice 0-25 years 2015.

For the Purposes of this Policy Document:

- Reasonable force is defined as using no more force than is needed in the circumstances.
- Physical intervention is defined as the positive application of force in order to protect/prevent a pupil from causing injury to themselves or others or seriously damaging property. It is necessary in more extreme cases, for example to stop a physical fight.
- Injury means 'significant injury'; this would include actual or grievous bodily harm, physical or sexual abuse, risking the lives of, or injury to, themselves or others, by willful or reckless behaviour, and self - poisoning.

Who can use Reasonable Force?

- All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force.
- This power applies to any member of staff at the school.
- It can also apply to people whom the Head has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.
- The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

When can Reasonable Force be used?

The decision on whether or not to use 'reasonable force' to control or restrain a child is down to the professional judgement of the staff concerned within the context of the law and should always depend on individual circumstances.

Reasonable force can be used:

- to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, from committing an offence, or from causing disorder;
- to manage pupils or to physically intervene;
- to remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- to prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- to prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- to prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground;
- to physically intervene when a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts;

When can Reasonable Force NOT be used?

Reasonable force must never be used as a form of punishment.

Guidelines for the Use of Physical Restraint

Professional judgement should be used in circumstances where the use of physical intervention and reasonable force is needed.

- Staff should not hesitate to act in an emergency provided they follow the guidelines in this policy.
- Staff should always satisfy themselves that the action they take would be considered justifiable by a wider audience of professional colleagues.
- In any application of physical restraint, the minimum reasonable force should be used to calm down the situation.
- Help should be summoned from colleagues; pupils should never be involved in restraint.

What to do in circumstances when the use of physical intervention and reasonable force is needed

- Approach the pupil calmly but firmly.
- Where possible, the consequences of refusing to stop the behaviour should be explained and it should be communicated to the pupil that physical contact or restraint will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary.
- A calm and measured approach is required by staff throughout.

Method of Intervention

The method of restraint employed must use the minimum force for the minimum time and must observe the following:

Physical Intervention must not:

- Involve hurting the pupil
- Involve deliberately inflicting pain on the pupil
- Restrict the pupil's breathing
- Involve contact with sexually sensitive areas
- Involve locking the pupil in a room

During any incident the person physically intervening should:

- Offer verbal reassurance to the pupil
- Cause the minimum level of restriction of movement
- Reduce the danger of any accidental injury
- Cease the restraint if there are any signs of physical distress in the pupil such as sudden change in colour, difficulty breathing or vomiting

Physical intervention can be:

- Partial – restricting and preventing particular movements
- Total – as in the case of immobilisation

Physical intervention can take several forms and may involve staff:

- Physically interposing between pupils
- Blocking a pupil's path
- Holding
- Pushing
- Pulling
- Leading a pupil by the hand or arm
- Shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back or in extreme circumstances using more restrictive holds

Do:

- Summon help immediately. A pupil can be sent to get another adult.
- Ensure a free passage of air through airways
- Be aware of any feelings of anger
- Continue to talk to the pupil in a calm way
- Provide a soft surface if possible
- Be aware of any accessories worn by you or the pupil that could cause injury
- Monitor the pupil's respiration, circulation and state of consciousness

Don't:

- Try to manage on your own
- Stop talking, even if the pupil does not reply
- Straddle the pupil
- Push their arms up their back
- Touch the pupil near the throat or head
- Put pressure on joints or on arterial pressure points (inside of upper arm, groin, neck)
- Use facedown holds

Recording Incidents

- Minor or everyday use of reasonable force does not need to be recorded. For example, very young children running off in the playground and being guided back to the line by the teacher or assistant.
- All more serious incidents involving the use of physical intervention must be reported to the **Head and the Deputy Headteacher immediately after the incident**. These must be recorded on CPOMS using the tab 'Physical Intervention'. Staff must include the following in their entry in CPOMS:
 - **Date, time and location of incident**
 - **Factual information of the event**
 - **Write down names of witnesses – this may be other adults present and pupils.**
 - **Write if they or the pupil sustained any injuries (must go to Welfare for check and report on Carstens if required).**
 - **Write down outcome.**
- Staff must seek the views of the pupil after the incident and record this on CPOMS as a new incident, using the tab 'Pupil Voice'.

Telling parents when force has been used on their child

- Staff need to use their professional judgement on whether to inform a parent, depending on the seriousness of the incident.
- In a serious incident where a member of staff has had to physically restrain a pupil, the parent will be informed on the day and the conversation must be followed up in writing to the parent.

In the event of a complaint being raised, it will be resolved through the school's complaint policy and procedures.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Mrs L McKenzie – Deputy Headteacher

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Mrs P Aggarwall - Headteacher

The extended Safeguarding Team are:

Mrs T Patel – Assistant Headteacher for EYFS and KS1/LKS2

Mr A Revens – Assistant Headteacher, SENDCo/UKS2

Mrs J Pusey – Business and Personal Manager

Safeguarding Governor is:

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Further reading

Keeping children Safe in Education 2025:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68add931969253904d155860/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_from_1_September_2025.pdf

Behaviour in schools Advice for headteachers and school staff (Sept 2022)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1101597/Behaviour_in_schools_guidance_sept_22.pdf

Reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention (June 2019):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812435/reducing-the-need-for-restraint-and-restrictive-intervention.pdf

Use of Reasonable force, advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies (July 2013):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444051/Use_of_reasonable_force_advice_Reviewed_July_2015.pdf

Positive environments where children can flourish (October 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/positive-environments-where-children-can-flourish/positive-environments-where-children-can-flourish>