

# Summerfields

PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Physical Restraint of Pupils Policy

**Reviewed: 18/07/2017**

**Next Review: 18/07/2018**

**Signed:**

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**SUMMERFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**POLICY ON THE PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OF PUPILS**

**RATIONALE:**

Two legal principles collide here: "the child has the right not to be touched" and we can never take this away and the "duty of the school to safeguard the child's welfare". These reasons demand that we are very careful in these circumstances.

Prevention should be the primary consideration. Steps to avoid situations should be taken and the adult should be able to demonstrate that those steps were taken. Physical restraint should always be the last resort. Delay if at all possible. However, in some circumstances, eg a child running out onto the road, you might be deemed negligent if you do not intervene.

**AIMS:**

- Always analyse the situation e.g. scanning the room for potential exits, dangers and triggers.
- Always consider the environment, the medical circumstances and the clothing.
- Always say that the action being taken is for the good of the child, trying to keep them safe.
- Always assure them that the restraint is not a punishment.
- Never use other children in the restraint
- Always inform the Head Teacher or Senior Teacher in charge.
- Parents must be informed as soon as practical.

Reasonable force may be used:

- In self defence, where risk of injury is imminent;
- When there is a developing risk of injury to themselves or others.

Physical intervention may involve staff in:

- Holding
- Pushing
- Pulling

**RESPONSIBILITY AND MONITORING:**

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure that any instances where physical restraint has been used follow the correct procedures.

Signed:

Date:

**GUIDELINES:**

Staff should not act in a way that could be expected to cause injury, for example:

- Holding a pupil around the neck or by the collar or in any other way that might restrict the pupil's ability to breathe;
- Slapping, punching or kicking a pupil;
- Twisting or forcing limbs against a joint;
- Tripping up a pupil;
- Holding or pulling a pupil by the hair or ear;
- Holding a pupil face down on the ground.

Staff should always avoid touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered indecent.

The incident should be followed up with time for the adult and child to talk about the situation. The circumstances must be recorded as soon as possible stating the date and time, staff involved including witnesses and any further actions or comments (Appendix 1).



### Appendix 1

Date and Time	Child's Name	Staff involved including witnesses	Further actions required or additional comments	Signature