

Falcons Primary School



FALCONS
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy on the Use of Restrictive Interventions

Approved by GB Date: February 2026

Review Date: February 2028

School Vision and Ethos Statement

We encourage all members of the Falcons Community to respect one another, to know that everyone has an important part to play in making the school as good as it can be, to take responsibility and be responsible, to strive for excellence and to try one's best in everything we do.

Our vision for Falcons Primary School is to be recognised as a school that values uniqueness, where children are provided with the skills to enable them to become:

- * successful learners
- * responsible citizens
- * creative thinkers and
- * reflective individuals

SIKH ETHOS

The school draws on the teaching of the Sikh faith and is committed to providing not only an academic education, but one that will also encompass an underlying message of unity, equality and respect. High morals, discipline, love, compassion and selfless service towards all regardless of faith, gender or colour. Falcon School will embrace a universal, inclusive approach to spirituality.

AIMS

To achieve our vision, we aim for all pupils, staff, governors and parents to:

- Work in unity to make Falcons School a welcoming, stimulating and successful school. Encourage good manners, self-discipline and the desire to be enthusiastic learners who grow into forward thinking responsible citizens who respect, value and care for themselves and others.
- Provide an ethos with clear boundaries and expectations, enabling all children to succeed and to reach their full potential confidently, in a safe and supportive environment.
- Become excellent lifelong learners who are independent and prepared for the wider world and aim high to achieve aspirational goals.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The Use of Reasonable Force

This policy should be read in conjunction with **DfE guidance ‘Restrictive Interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools’ published April 2026** and takes into account Education Acts 1996 and 1997. **These state that all members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force in order to prevent or stop a pupil from:**

- committing a criminal offence
- injuring themselves or others
- causing damage to property including the pupil’s own property
- causing disorder among pupils at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

Unacceptable Uses of Force

It is illegal to use force on a pupil for the purpose of punishment. Pupils should never be restrained in a way that affects their airway, breathing or circulation.

Other Physical contact

Falcons Primary School believes that to deny pupils all physical contact with adults is to deny a basic human need and an expression of care and concern for all pupils.

However physical contact must be appropriate for the age, understanding and sex of the child and must never threaten or be sexually inappropriate.

Staff must be sensitive to:

- cultural backgrounds
- the need to maintain pupils’ personal space
- be aware of pupils who have been sexually abused and will either seek physical contact or positively avoid it

Physical contact may be appropriate:

- to give first aid
- to guide or escort children
- when a pupil needs to get comfort or reassurance e.g. following an accident or personal crisis.
- to congratulate or praise a pupil.
- to demonstrate how to use a musical instrument
- to demonstrate exercises or techniques during sports coaching or PE.
- when a pupil needs encouragement to attempt a new challenge e.g. to climb on to a piece of apparatus.
- when there is a need to take urgent action to avoid an incident or injury

However, staff should take extreme care when offering physical comfort to pupils of the opposite sex, particularly as they approach puberty because physical contact can be misconstrued and this can cause distress to all concerned.

Staff should not be alone with pupils except in exceptional circumstances. Classroom doors should be left open when one member of staff is left supervising/talking with/teaching small groups or individual pupils.

Policy Statement – Falcons Primary School

Guidelines on the use of force to control or restrain pupils are part of the school's discipline and behaviour policy. Restraint will not be used punitively. The school has a disciplinary approach based on positive reinforcement of acceptable behaviour.

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force. 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.

At Falcons, reasonable force means using no more force than is needed and always trying to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury. All school staff are familiar with the school's policy and have a clear understanding about when physical restraint is appropriate and how it should be done. They also know when and how to get support from other staff.

Staff have a right to defend themselves against physical attack, and do everything possible to diffuse the situation before such an attack occurs. In the event that it is necessary to defend themselves against physical attack, minimum force for maximum effect should be used.

Staff working directly with pupils where there is a known likelihood that physical intervention may be needed have had the appropriate Team Teach training.

Risk Assessment

- all staff including teachers, classroom assistants and other colleagues in the school must be informed about pupils/families who are vulnerable or volatile
- vulnerable or volatile pupils/families should be clearly identified in documentation e.g. on the pupil's profile and on the main records which will be annotated
- a risk assessment based on knowledge and previous experience will be carried out and a plan of action for individuals will be written by the Headteacher or delegated member of staff.

Action

Situations in which reasonable force might be appropriate are:

- i. When action is necessary in self-defence e.g. when the pupil attacks another pupil or adult
- ii. Where there is an immediate or imminent risk of injury to another child or an adult e.g. when pupils are fighting or there is rough play or misuse of dangerous materials or objects.

- iii. Where there is immediate risk of significant damage to property – when a pupil is about to vandalise property
- iv. Where behaviour jeopardises good order and discipline e.g. where a pupil absconds from the classroom or school buildings. (Note – this only applies if the pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or at school)
- v. A pupil persistently refuses to leave an area e.g. the classroom or a playground etc.
- vi. Behaviour which seriously disrupts a lesson.

Physical intervention may need to be used when

- i. There is clearly no alternative approach which would work in the circumstances i.e. there is an immediate urgency to resolve the situation
- ii. Defending or protecting

Procedure

- i. Staff must use minimum force for maximum effect over the shortest time and use only the agreed restraint methods
- ii. Pupil safety is paramount. Staff must be aware of signs of distress such as vomiting, changes in colour, breathlessness etc.
- iii. After an incident staff must complete the “Report of Incident Involving Physical Restraint” (appendix 1). One copy is to be placed in the staff incident file and the top copy must be passed to the Headteacher (or other member of the Senior Management Team with delegated responsibility).
- iv. Parents must be informed on the same day as the incident, of the circumstances which led up to the incident and the outcome. Parents must also be informed of any future action the school intends to take.
- v. The senior management team and staff will evaluate any incident or physical restraint to inform future management of pupils in similar situations.
- vi. Staff involved will be debriefed following an incident and kept informed of any future action which relates to it.
- vii. A report on the operation of this policy will be made by the Headteacher to the full Governing Body at least once a term. The Chair of Governors will be informed on the day of an occurrence.

Essential Points to Remember

Whenever possible staff are advised to seek the support of another adult when they need to use reasonable force to resolve a situation they cannot deal with in any other way. The other adult will be a witness to the incident and will complete a witness report for the record.

In some extreme cases staff are advised not to intervene in an incident, unless it is an emergency. Staff must judge whether it is safe to remove other pupils to a safe distance and seek help from other colleagues or the police. In such incidents, the teacher/member of staff should tell the pupil that he/she has sent for help and continue to try to diffuse the situation orally. If the situation is diffused successfully the incident log must still be completed so that others may learn from the experience.

Complaints

In the event of complaints to the school or to Social Services in connection with the use of force by a member of staff, the Headteacher (or delegated member of the senior management team) will seek the advice and support of personnel on how to respond to the complaint.

Application of Force

Physical intervention can take several forms. It might involve staff in

- physically interposing between pupils
- blocking pupil's path
- holding
- pushing or pulling but only in extreme circumstances to avoid danger
- 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

In exceptional circumstances where there is an immediate risk of injury, a member of staff may need to take any necessary action that is consistent with the concept of reasonable force. For example, to prevent a young pupil from running onto a busy road, or to prevent a pupil from hitting someone or throwing something.

In other circumstances staff should not act in a way that might be expected to cause injury for example by:

- holding a pupil around the neck or by the collar or in any other way that might restrict the ability to breathe
- slapping, punching or kicking
- twisting or forcing limbs against joint
- tripping up
- holding or pulling 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.

Staff must always consider whether a risk is urgent and whether there is any alternative to physical intervention.

Staff should always try to deal with the situation using other agreed strategies to calm a situation before using force.

The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils

Reminder of Dos and Don'ts

Do

Know the procedures in our school

Stay calm

Tell the pupil what you are doing and why.

Use the minimum force necessary

Involve other staff if possible

Tell the pupil what he/she must do for you to remove the restraint

Use simple language

Relax your restraint in response to the pupil's compliance

Don't

Act in temper

Place yourself at risk

Involve other pupils in the restraint

Grasp or hold the pupil in sexual areas

Twist or force limbs back against the joint

Bend fingers or pull hair

Hold the pupil in a way that restricts blood flow or breathing.

Slap, punch, pinch or kick

Trip up the pupil.

Appendix 1 - Restraint Report Recording Form

We believe that reasonable force should only be used when absolutely necessary. With this in mind, this form has been created to ensure that all incidents of this type are recorded. Incidents must also be documented in the Positive Handling Log.

We believe that positive handling and reasonable force should only be used when absolutely necessary. With this in mind, this form has been created to ensure that all incidents of this type are recorded. Incidents must also be documented in the Positive Handling Log.

Name of staff member:	
Name of pupil:	
Date:	
Time:	
Location:	
Name(s) of staff member(s) who witnessed the incident:	
Informed parties (parents, social workers, police, etc.):	
Circumstances prior to the incident:	
Details of the incident:	
Details of any negative impact on other pupils:	
Reason(s) for positive handling (please tick):	

Danger to self ☐

Danger to others ☐

Significant damage to property ☐

Details of the intervention:

Any disciplinary additional action taken:

Injuries (if any) to staff members, the pupil concerned or other pupils:

Damage (if any) to property:

Recommendation(s) to avoid future incidents:

Headteacher's signature:

Date:

Signature of staff member concerned:

Date: