



# MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE

## USE OF REASONABLE FORCE TO CONTROL OR RESTRAIN STUDENTS

Date Reviewed: March 2023

Date of Next Review: March 2025

Reviewer: Assistant Principal (John Barnes)

Date of ratification by Governing body (T & L): 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Document Control		
Edition	Issued	Changes from previous
1	March 2023	New policy
		Post holders/Persons named in this policy
This policy links to other school policies on: Positive Relationships policy		Safeguarding Lead SLT Teachers Associate staff Catering/cleaning staff

### Rationale:

This policy should be used in conjunction with Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act (2006), Use of reasonable force – advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies and Guidance on the use of restrictive physical interventions for pupils with severe behaviour difficulties. The school's Behaviour Policy should also be referred to throughout.

These documents clarify the law on physical contact between school staff and students. It also requires the school to have a formal policy setting out which categories of staff come under the new legislation and what response there should be when an incident occurs.

### Objectives:

1. To state the categories of staff covered by the key documents set out above.
2. To provide guidelines on the use of force to control or restrain students.
3. To establish the reporting route when an incident of the use of force has taken place.

### Guidelines:

1. Those categories of staff who are authorised to "have control or charge of students" and so are authorised to use reasonable force to control or restrain students are:

- Teachers
- Associate staff
- Catering staff
- Cleaning staff
- Other colleagues or visitors on site e.g. school nurse, youth workers and contractors.

2. Situations in which the use of reasonable force could be appropriate include:

- a) In self-defence or where there is imminent risk of injury to another student or member of staff.
- b) Where there could be risk of an injury or damage to property.

Examples of such situations include:

- a) A student attacking another student or a member of staff.
- b) A student damaging or vandalising property (or is about to do so).
- c) A student is putting themselves / others at risk by misuse of material or objects.
- d) A student leaves a class or the school without permission and in doing so may be at risk.

3. "Reasonable Force" is difficult to define but the term can only be applied to circumstances that warrant the use of force (i.e. are not trivial). Force must be proportional to the circumstances and should be the minimum to achieve a result (taking into account the age, understanding and gender of the student). Wherever possible a verbal warning should be given before force is used. A member of staff should not intervene physically if they are going to put themselves at risk but instead should immediately seek assistance.

Examples of reasonable force include:

- a) Blocking a student's path.
- b) Physically interposing between students.
- c) Holding a student
- d) Leading a student by the hand or arm.
- e) Shepherding a student by a hand on the back.
- f) In more extreme circumstances, using a restraining hold.

#### 4. Warnings

- a) Staff should not act in a way that might be expected to cause injury unless there is an immediate risk of serious injury.
- b) Staff should avoid any contact that could be considered indecent.

#### 5. Reporting of incidents

All physical intervention should be recorded in the Physical Intervention file retained in the Safeguarding office. Accompanying Witness Statements should be added to the file. A record must be kept of any incident involving the use of force on a student and the matter must be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding lead and senior leadership team.

The record should note briefly:

- a) Name of student and place of incident.
- b) Names of witnesses (staff and students).
- c) Reasons for the use of force.
- d) Details of the event.
- e) Outcome of the incident.
- f) Any injuries or damage to property.
- g) Action taken by member of staff.
- h) Consideration of how to prevent the need for such physical intervention in the future

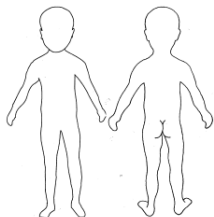
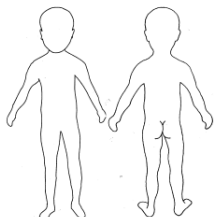
The Head of Year should discuss the incident with the member of the Leadership Team dealing with the matter and should then contact parents and give details of the incident.

## **Conclusion**

This policy covers extreme cases of control or restraint of students. Melbourn Village College's positive behaviour procedures should be followed initially for all students.

Notwithstanding all the details in the legislation and this policy, the strong advice to all staff is to avoid physical contact unless absolutely necessary.

## Physical Intervention Record

Student:	
Date:	
Intervening staff member:	
Staff witnesses:	
Reason for physical intervention	
<p>Description of event (indicate on the body map where the student was touched). Remember to include how you attempted to de-escalate the situation:</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>	
<p>Student's description of the event (indicate on the body map where the student was touched):</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>	
Were any persons injured:	Yes/ No (please delete as appropriate). If yes, please complete an accident form.
Could the need for physical intervention have been averted? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)	
Parents informed: Yes/ No (delete as appropriate)	Date:
Staff member's signature:	
Head Teacher's signature:	
Copies to intervention file/safeguarding	