

CALDER HOUSE SCHOOL

Thickwood Lane, Colerne, Near Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 8BN

Physical Intervention Policy

The first priority of all staff at Calder House must be the welfare and safety of our pupils. We must also look after ourselves and other members of staff. In order to protect a child from harm it may be necessary – in certain circumstances – for staff to use physical intervention. Physical intervention should always be a last resort and it is unlikely that staff will need to resort to this type of intervention. However, if an event occurs in which physical restraint is necessary, staff should be confident in taking the necessary steps to keep pupils safe. It is therefore important that all staff are familiar with this policy.

The law says we may use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils in three circumstances.

The three circumstances in which the use of force might be appropriate are:

1. To prevent the child injuring themselves or another person;
2. In self-defence;
3. To prevent significant damage to property.

Any circumstance in which physical restraint is used must be regarded as “significant incident” and must be recorded in the Incident Book kept by the Head of School.

Force can only be “reasonable” if the circumstances warrant both the use of it and the degree of force that is, in fact, used. The minimum amount of force required to deal with the situation is all that may be used. Reasonable means using no more force than is needed and may involve passive physical contact (e.g. blocking a pupil’s path) or active physical contact (e.g. holding a pupil by the arm).

Examples of physical intervention include:

1. Blocking a pupil’s path
2. Holding/pushing/pulling: provided the point of contact between the teacher and the pupil is appropriate e.g. the arm or centre of the back.
3. Leading a pupil by the arm
4. Shepherding a pupil by the hand in the centre of the back
5. If absolutely necessary, more restrictive holds may be used.

In all cases, it is school policy that the teacher confronting a difficult situation shall:

1. Immediately send another pupil to alert the nearest colleague.
2. Be aware of the risks to other pupils. Where possible, staff should avoid leaving other pupils unsupervised.
3. Request the presence of Head of School or another senior colleague (e.g. Managing Director) as soon as is practicable.
4. Record details of the incident in the Incident Book, which is kept for this purpose in the Head of School’s Office.



01225743566 / www.CalderHouseSchool.co.uk / enquiries@CalderHouseSchool.co.uk
Calder House Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, Registration No. 4049248,
Registered Office 37 Great Pulteney Street, Bath, BA2 4DA

Physical force or restraint may never be used to punish a child. This would be unlawful.

It is school policy to inform the parents of the pupil/pupils concerned as soon as is practicable after any significant incident and ask them to attend a meeting in school with the Head of School. At this meeting parents will be asked to sign the Incident Book – to record that they have been made aware of the incident.

In line with best practice, Head of School should also take the following steps:

1. ensure that all reprimands and disciplinary steps which are necessitated by a significant incident are witnessed by another colleague and that parents are informed of the sanctions imposed;
2. ensure that both the teacher involved, and any adult or child witnesses make a statement describing what happened as soon as practicable after the incident; this statement should be dated and retained in the Incident Book;
3. ensure that a full record is kept of the meeting with parents; this should be held as soon as possible after the incident; all parties present at the meeting should sign the record and this record should be retained in the Incident Book.

The school is aware of the guidance issued by Departments Education in July 2013. This guidance can be read here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>

Calder House's policy on Physical Intervention has been written in line with this guidance. It is noted that the underlying principles of this guidance are:

1. The use of force should be avoided wherever possible.
2. There are occasions where the use of force is necessary.
3. When physical intervention is necessary it must be used in ways that maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.

It is not considered necessary to develop a written protocol identifying where incidents requiring restrictive physical intervention are likely to occur as such incidents are likely to occur very rarely at Calder House. Consequently, such a protocol will not be of practical help to staff.

Situations, which might give rise to the need for physical intervention, include:

1. To separate a pupil who responds to another with physical aggression;
2. To protect a pupil from a dangerous situation – for example to prevent a child leaving school premises without consent;
3. To protect oneself or a colleague from a pupil who is hurting or about to hurt a member of staff;
4. To prevent behaviour that undermines the good order and discipline within the school – including where property is being damaged or about to be damaged

In all cases. staff are reminded, that any physical intervention must be proportionate to the behaviour of the individual to be controlled and the harm they might cause.

In line with the Guidance by the DfE (see above) the Head of School and authorised staff, reserve the right to search pupil's possessions for "prohibited items" – such as alcohol; knives; and pornographic



images – if they have reason to suspect a child has brought them into school. This guidance allows reasonable force to be used in order to conduct a search “prohibited items” but does not allow the use of force to search for items banned under school rules. Calder House notes the guidance and the distinction it draws on this point.

This policy was last reviewed and updated on 23 September 2020.



01225743566 / www.CalderHouseSchool.co.uk / enquiries@CalderHouseSchool.co.uk
Calder House Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, Registration No. 4049248,
Registered Office 37 Great Pulteney Street, Bath, BA2 4DA