



**POULTON ST CHAD'S**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**LOVE LEARNING. LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

**Restrictive Interventions including Reasonable Force Policy**

Issue	Date	Author	Approver	Changes	Review
1	10.3.26	Mrs Bitsakaki	FGB 19.3.26	Newly written	April 2027

### **Our Mission Statement**

At Poulton St Chad's, we believe every child is a gift from God, blessed with their own gifts and talents. It is our mission to ensure children are safe, happy and can thrive. We aim to give our children a love for learning through our engaging curriculum and enrichment opportunities; a love for God within our distinctly Christian setting and a love for one another through our nurturing environment and inclusive relationships.

Every day we are guided by our biblical root: "Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:14) and by our school motto: LOVE LEARNING. LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

### **Rationale and Aims**

The use of restrictive interventions, including reasonable force and seclusion, can have a significant impact on the pupils, staff members and parents involved, as well as the wider classroom. However, there are times when the use of restrictive interventions will be lawful and necessary; for example, to keep individuals and the wider school community safe.

This policy aims to help staff at Poulton St Chad's proactively minimise the need to use restrictive interventions through early support, prevention and de-escalation strategies, and when necessary, to help school staff feel more confident in knowing how to use these interventions safely, appropriately and lawfully.

### **Relevant legislation and guidance**

The principal legislation to which this policy relates are:

- the Education and Inspections Act 2006, especially sections 93 and 93A
- the Schools (Recording and Reporting of Seclusion and Restraint) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2025
- the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and associated regulations
- the Human Rights Act 1998
- the Equality Act 2010

*The latest DfE guidance found in: 'Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools' Guidance for schools in England April 2026*

### **Terminology**

For clarity, this policy will use the following definitions:

**Restrictive intervention:** a means to prevent, restrict, or subdue movement of the body, or part of the body, of a pupil. This policy uses 'restrictive interventions' as the umbrella term to describe both physical and non-physical actions aimed to restrain pupils in different ways.

**Reasonable force:** a term used in legislation which includes physical restrictive interventions. All members of school staff have the legal power to use reasonable force in limited circumstances. Reasonable means using no more force than is necessary for the least amount of time, the application of which will depend on the circumstances.

**Significant incident:** any incident where the use of force goes beyond appropriate physical contact between pupils and staff as described in 'Other physical contact with pupils' in the DfE guidance. This includes when physical force is used to implement a non-physical restrictive intervention.

**Seclusion:** a non-disciplinary intervention involving keeping a pupil confined to a place away from others, and preventing them from leaving either by physical obstruction, blocking, or making them believe they will be punished if they try to leave.

**Restraint:** a term used in legislation referring to a non-disciplinary intervention which immobilises a pupil or limits their movement. This may or may not include direct physical contact. For example, holding a pupil's arms to their sides or removing a pupil's crutches would both be considered forms of restraint.

***The various restrictive interventions above have been defined for completeness- they are not an endorsement for their use at Poulton St Chad's.***

### **Who can use reasonable force?**

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force in certain circumstances. To prevent or stop a pupil from:

1. causing injury to themselves or others
2. committing a criminal offence
3. damaging property
4. causing disorder among pupils at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise

Staff who are likely to need to use reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions have been adequately trained in its safe and lawful use and in preventative strategies through 'Team Teach'.

### **Governors**

The Governors of Poulton St Chad's have a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of their employees. Therefore, we will carry out risk assessments to

ensure that staff who regularly work alongside pupils where the use of reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions may be required can do so as safely as possible.

Our governing body will regularly review and interrogate data on restrictive interventions to : ensure school leaders are complying with guidance; to identify and implement improvements to policies and practices; understand pupils' repeat patterns and triggers to interrogate the effectiveness of pupil support measures; identify any disproportionate use of restrictive interventions in relation to pupils who share protected characteristics, have SEN, or other types of vulnerability. This information will be shared termly with the Curriculum Committee, starting at the first opportunity which is in May 2026.

### **Use of reasonable force to search pupils**

Head teachers and staff they authorise have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil may have a prohibited item (from the list of prohibited items in the Education Act, 1996)

A member of staff can use such force as is reasonable to search for legally prohibited items, but not to search for items banned under the school rules only. Staff will refer to the Searching, Screening and Confiscation in Schools guidance document for detailed advice on searching a pupil.

### **Unacceptable uses of force**

It is illegal to use force on a pupil for the purpose of punishment. Pupils should not be restrained in a way that affects their airway, breathing or circulation, for example, by covering the mouth and/or nose, or applying pressure to the neck region or abdomen. The use of force can be dangerous, particularly where it occurs on the ground. If a pupil is unintentionally held on the ground, staff should release their holds or re-position into a safer alternative or standing position as quickly as possible. Where appropriate, the pupil should receive a medical assessment and treatment for any injuries as soon as possible. For any form of restraint, including seated and standing, there is a risk of physical and psychological harm, and at Poulton St Chad's we will avoid it where possible.

### **Our Behaviour and Relationships policy**

At Poulton St Chad's we believe in the effectiveness of positive relationships; consistency, high expectations and clear boundaries demonstrated by all staff; recognising and rewarding desired

behaviour; and de-escalation as soon as possible. This is basis of our behaviour policy which can be found at :

<https://poultonstchadsce.lancs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Behaviour-and-Relationships-Policy.pdf>

### **Whole-school measures we take to avoid escalating behaviour**

- consideration of how our school and classroom environment can support all pupils to achieve and thrive
- sharing best practice for whole-class behaviour management, and for managing communal spaces such as corridors and playgrounds
- training staff in effective communication strategies, such as using appropriate tone of voice and empathy to aid de-escalation (we are a trauma informed school and our whole staff have had training on attachment and trauma and emotion coaching)
  - Monitoring behaviour approaches and logs to ensure that all staff at Poulton St Chad's are following our behaviour and relationships policy and thereby reducing any need for a restrictive intervention
- development of working staff-pupil relationships and trust and a restorative approach to managing behaviour incidents
- recording and analysing data on the use of restrictive interventions to inform improvement planning

### **Our Individual approaches include:**

- working closely with parents to support individual pupils
- strategies to support individual pupils based on their identified needs, including the development of behaviour support plans and including reasonable adjustments for any child with a disability
- giving pupils time, space and strategies to calm down before their behaviour escalates

### **Determining when use of restrictive interventions is appropriate**

There will be times when school staff may need to use restrictive interventions, and they should know this option may be available to them. The decision on whether it is reasonable to use a restrictive intervention depends on the individual circumstances of each situation. Where possible,

we ask that staff seek assistance from one the Senior Leaders in school or one of the pastoral team. To make this assessment, staff should consider the following:

*Is it necessary?*

*Is it proportionate?*

*What will be the impact on the pupil's welfare?*

*Has the child got SEND and if so have they got a behaviour support plan?*

### **After the restrictive intervention**

Staff at Poulton St Chad's will evaluate all incidents involving the use of restrictive intervention as soon as practicable after the event to understand why it was used, the impact on pupils and staff, any patterns and trends, and how the use of restrictive interventions might be avoided in future, for example by amending or introducing a behaviour support plan.

We will monitor those involved as further support may be required for pupils or staff.

### **Recording and Reporting**

We will record on a proforma each significant incident in which a member of staff uses force on a pupil, as part of our duty under section 93A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Incidents will be recorded as soon as practicable after the event by the staff member(s) involved and on the same day. Parents will be informed that day in writing. We will also record if seclusion or a non-force intervention was used using our standard proforma, which will be reported to parents on the same day of the incident.

At each termly Governors' Curriculum meeting, the Headteacher will report the number of any interventions have taken place and whether these used force/seclusion or non-force.

### **Complaints and allegations**

Any complaints regarding the use of restrictive interventions should be dealt with in accordance with the school's normal complaints procedure. If an allegation regarding inappropriate use of force and/or other restrictive interventions is made against a member of staff, the procedures in Keeping Children Safe in Education should be followed. This includes the provisions regarding suspension of staff.

### **Policy review**

This is a brand new policy that has been created solely by Poulton St Chad's in line with the new DfE guidance in April 2026. We will review this policy in 12 month's time.