

# HOOK INFANT SCHOOL

## RESTRAINT POLICY

### Common law and statutory law power

Any citizen has the common law power to intervene in an emergency to use reasonable force in self defence, to prevent another person from being injured or to stop a criminal offence taking place.

All school staff who have control or charge of pupils also have statutory power, in addition to common law power. Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act (2006) enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable and proportionate.

At Hook Infant School, restraint can occur if a member of staff needs to use physical force to restrict a child's movement against his or her will to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following:

- committing an offence (or, for a pupil under the age of criminal responsibility, what would be an offence for an older pupil)
- causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself)
- prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any pupils receiving education at the school, whether during a teaching session or otherwise.

### Who can use restrictive physical intervention

All staff can use restrictive physical intervention to maintain safety in an emergency consistent with the principles of common law as detailed above. All teachers and any other person, who by virtue of their contract, has control or charge of pupils are authorised to use reasonable force under all the conditions above with regard to pupils attending that school (including those attending on a temporary basis).

The Headteacher may also designate specific staff to respond to such incidents as and when required.

Staff will only use restraint to remove a child to a place of safety, where they can be allowed to calm and eventually return to the planned lesson. Safety is always a paramount concern and as such staff are not required or advised to use restrictive physical intervention if it is likely to put their own safety or the safety of others at risk.

The school uses a 'Red Card' strategy to notify other members of staff to an incident where help is required to manage difficult behaviour. If a member of staff does not have another adult on hand they should ask a child to go to the nearest adult with the 'Red Card' to summon additional support.

