

## **Physical Intervention Policy**

This policy must be read in conjunction with the School's Behaviour Policy. It applies to both the Children's House and Grantham Farm classes. It also has links to other policies concerning Child Protection and therefore staff must also familiarise themselves with the:

- Child Protection Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy (inc. procedures for dealing with abuse by one or more pupils against another pupil, taking into account that a bullying incident is treated as a child protection concern, where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm)
- Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy
- Staff Behaviour & Code of Conduct
- Monitoring Staff Behaviour Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Complaints and Compliments Policy
- The Prevent Duty & Radicalisation Policy
- Health and Safety General Policy

*At Grantham Farm Montessori School, staff have a duty of care to pupils and reasonable force would only ever be used as a last resort strategy.*

At Grantham Farm Montessori School, we are responsible for managing children's behaviour in an appropriate way. We take all reasonable steps to ensure that corporal punishment is not given by any person who cares for or is in regular contact with a child, or by any person living or working in the premises where care is provided. We understand that any early years provider who fails to meet these requirements commits an offence.

### **What is reasonable force?**

For the purposes of this policy, the term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.

Force would usually be used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm, through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.

'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.

At Grantham Farm Montessori School, staff would use force to control pupils and to restrain them only as a last resort strategy.

Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the hand out of a classroom.

Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.

School staff would always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

### **Who can use reasonable force at Grantham Farm?**

All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force. Teachers are given authority to use their professional judgement when determining what is reasonable. This power applies to any member of staff at the school. It can also apply to people whom the head teacher has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.

### **When can reasonable force be used?**

Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from injuring themselves or others or damaging property.

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.

The following list is not exhaustive but provides some examples of situations where reasonable force can and cannot be used.

**Grantham Farm staff can use reasonable force** for the purposes of averting immediate danger of personal injury to any person (including the child) or to manage a child's behaviour if absolutely necessary.

**Staff must not** give or threaten corporal punishment to a child and must not use or threaten any punishment which could adversely affect a child's well-being (EYFS, 2021: 3.54; p.34). It is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

### **What happens when it has been necessary to use reasonable force?**

In the unlikely event that it has been necessary to restrain a child, a record must be made of any occasion where physical intervention is used, and parents and/or carers must be informed on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable. Physical intervention recording forms can be found in the policies and procedures folder in the school office.

**Additional information:** The school will always make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN).

Risk Assessments are drawn up as part of an individual behaviour plan for pupils who may exhibit challenging behaviour.

**Complaints about the use of reasonable force:** All complaints about the use of force shall be thoroughly, speedily and appropriately investigated.

Where a member of staff has acted within the law – that is, they have used reasonable force in order to prevent injury, damage to property or disorder – this will provide a defence to any criminal prosecution or other civil or public law action.

When a complaint is made the onus is on the person making the complaint to prove that his/her allegations are true – it is not for the member of staff to show that he/she has acted reasonably.

**Positive handling:** All staff are reminded that positive use of touch is a normal part of human interaction. Touch might be appropriate in a range of situations such as:

- giving guidance to children (such as how to hold a paintbrush or when climbing)
- providing emotional support (such as placing an arm around a distressed child)
- physical care (such as first aid or toileting).

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the school</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
<i>September 2021</i>	<i>E. Wetherley</i>	<i>September 2022</i>