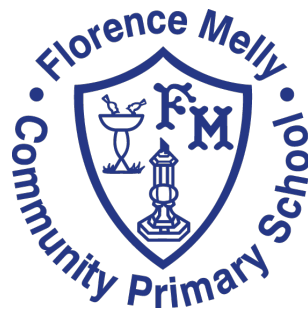


Florence Melly
Community Primary School

Restrictive Interventions (including Reasonable Force) Policy

Policy Title:	Restrictive Interventions (including Reasonable Force) Policy		Date written:	January 2026
Written by:	Aaron Leach (Headteacher)		New or revised policy:	Revised
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	February 2026	February 2026	February 2029	





Restrictive Interventions (including Reasonable Force) Policy

February 2026

At Florence Melly Community Primary School, our priority is always to keep children and staff safe, supported and well cared for. Most behaviour concerns are managed through positive relationships, clear expectations and calm de-escalation strategies.

Very occasionally, when there is an immediate risk of harm, staff may need to step in physically to keep a child or others safe. This is known as a restrictive intervention. These situations are rare and are never used as a punishment or to force a child to comply with instructions.

Our approach reflects our commitment to safety, dignity and care for every child.

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the school's approach to the safe, lawful and proportionate use of restrictive interventions, including reasonable force, to protect pupils, staff and others from harm. It reflects the DfE statutory guidance on Restrictive Interventions, including the use of reasonable force in schools.

Restrictive interventions are only used when absolutely necessary to manage risk, and the school is committed to prevention and de-escalation wherever possible to reduce the need for such actions.

2. Definition

Restrictive interventions are actions that limit a pupil's movement, liberty or independence. They include:

- Reasonable force, such as guiding a pupil away from danger
- Physical restraint
- Seclusion, where a pupil is kept in a safe space away from others to reduce immediate risk of harm

These interventions are distinct from everyday positive behaviour management and must not be used as punishment or to enforce compliance with school rules.

3. Legal Framework

This policy is based on:

- DfE guidance: Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools (effective 1 April 2026)
- Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010

4. When Restrictive Interventions May Be Used

Staff may apply a restrictive intervention only when:

- There is an immediate and significant risk of harm to the pupil or others
- Other prevention and de-escalation strategies have been attempted or judged unlikely to work
- The intervention is proportionate and necessary to manage the risk

Examples of situations include preventing injury, significant disruption, self-harm or damage to property.

Restrictive interventions must never be used as a disciplinary sanction or for routine behaviour management.

5. Prevention and De-escalation

Our school prioritises approaches that prevent the need for restrictive interventions through:

- A positive behaviour culture and supportive relationships
- De-escalation strategies and safe communication
- Training for staff in behaviour management
- Tailored support plans for pupils with additional needs, including SEND
- Regular review of behaviour support and risk assessments

These measures reduce the likelihood of situations escalating to the point where restrictive interventions are considered necessary.

6. Recording and Reporting

From 1 April 2026, our school has a statutory duty to record and report every significant incident involving:

- The use of reasonable force
- Restraint
- Seclusion

Records must include details such as:

- Seclusion
- Pupil and staff involved
- Date, time and location
- Circumstances leading to the intervention
- De-escalation strategies attempted
- Type, duration and reason for the intervention
- Any injuries or follow-up support

Records will be made and securely stored on our CPOMS system.

The record must be made as soon as practicable, and at the latest by the end of the same school day. The school will provide written notification to parents/carers as soon as possible (usually the same day) unless doing so would cause serious harm.

7. Communication with Parents and Carers

Parents/carers will be informed promptly about any significant restrictive intervention involving their child. Communication will include:

- What happened
- Why it was necessary
- Any actions taken afterward
- Plans for support and future risk reduction

Parents/carers are encouraged to discuss concerns and work with the school to support their child's behaviour and wellbeing.

8. Supporting Pupils After an Incident

After any restrictive intervention, staff will:

- Ensure the pupil is safe and calm
- Offer emotional support through our pastoral team and/or appropriate outside agencies
- Review individual risk and behaviour support plans
- Involve parents/carers in planning next steps

We will monitor data on incidents to identify patterns and improve practice.

9. Training and Responsibilities

- All staff are expected to understand this policy and follow de-escalation and reporting procedures.
- Senior Leaders will ensure that training is provided on behaviour management, safe use of force and recording/reporting duties.
- The Governing Body will review incident data and oversight of policy implementation.

This policy will be reviewed **every three years** or sooner if guidance changes.