

# Belgrave St. Bartholomew's Academy

Principal: Mrs K. Deaville



## Use of Force Policy 2021

If you would like this translated in Urdu, please contact the school office.

آپ اردو ترجمہ میں یہ خط چاہتے ہیں تو، اسکول کے دفتر سے رابطہ کریں۔

## **USE OF FORCE POLICY**

Staff should also refer to the whole school Behaviour and Exclusion Policy.

### **RATIONALE**

- To maintain the safety of pupils and staff.
- To prevent serious damage to property.

At Belgrave St. Bartholomew's Academy we believe that the use of reasonable force is only necessary to prevent a pupil from:

- Injuring themselves or others.
- Causing damage to property, including their own.
- Committing a criminal offence.

The use of physical restraint will always be a last resort. All other behavioural management strategies and the whole school behaviour policy will be used and followed before any form of physical intervention. The situation will be made as safe as possible and a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) or a senior member of staff (Middle Leader/Extended Leadership Team) will be called to support and decide on the next course of action.

### **OUR VISION AND VALUES**

"Being the best that we can be, together".

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13"*

### **Our CHERISH Values**

**C**reativity, **H**umanity, **E**nthusiasm, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **S**pirituality, **H**ard work

### **MINIMISING THE NEED TO USE FORCE**

- At Belgrave St. Bartholomew's Academy we aim to create a learning environment that is calm, positive and caring.
- Our established CHERISH Values and our PSHE/SMSC and fundamental values permeate throughout designated PSHE sessions (Jigsaw curriculum), in cross-curricular activities and our clearly planned worship timetable.
- Force will only be used when the risks involved in doing so are outweighed by the risks involved when not using force.
- Strategies and techniques that may be required for an individual will be included in the pupil's Educational Healthcare Plan or Pupil Passport. Written guidelines on the use of positive handling techniques need to be agreed or approved by all relevant parties including parents or guardians.

### **USING FORCE**

- The use of physical restraint will always be a last resort, it will always be the aim of staff to initially aim to de-escalate the situation.
- Force where used, should always be reasonable. There is no definition of 'reasonable force' it should always be proportional to the circumstances of the incident. It should only be used to control or restrain. It must therefore, be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result. Pupils safety is always paramount and at the forefront of decisions that are made.
- Staff should always avoid touching or holding a pupil in a way that might be considered inappropriate.
- In using physical restraint, the level and duration of the restraint will always be the minimum necessary to restore safety. In any action, due regard has to be

taken to the age, understanding and sex of the pupil. Knowledge of the pupil is a key factor in the judgements that will be made.

- Staff as far as possible should not use force unless or until another member of staff is present to support, observe or call for assistance.
- A clear verbal warning should be given to the pupil that force may have to be used. This will be communicated in a clear and an appropriate way.
- Types of force that could be used:
  - Physically interpose between students
  - Block a pupil's path
  - Hold (not around neck area)
  - Lead a pupil by the hand or arm
  - Shepherd a pupil away by placing your hand in the centre of their back
  - In extreme cases (such as self defence or to protect any pupil or adult) – more restrictive holds
- Staff will attend available training opportunities linked to the use of force and/or de-escalation training as appropriate.

### **RECORDING INCIDENTS**

- Where restraint has been necessary, the Principal *must* be informed immediately. In the event of their absence, a member of SLT *must* be notified.
- The incident must be recorded on CPOMS (Child Protection Online Monitoring System) and Arbor (school information system – if applicable for behaviour log) for the appropriate pupil/s.
- Staff involved in the incident must be given time to 'de-brief' with comments recorded in the report.
- Pupil's comments are recorded on CPOMS.
- There will be an appropriate time set after the incident for staff and pupil involved to meet.
- In the event of an injury occurring, 'The Accident Book' should be completed for all first aid given (main First Aid store located in the room at the back of the school hall and other first aid boxes located in the Lightwell Area cupboards, in the staff room and in the classrooms).
- Parents of pupils involved will always be advised of an incident and it may be necessary to be followed with pastoral support and/or further actions in line with the school's behaviour policy.

**Date:** April 2020 (*minor updates July 2021*)

**Review Date:** December 2021