



Calder Valley Steiner Education
The Valley Kindergarten
Making time for childhood

CVSE Holding and Physical Restraint Policy and Procedure

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1.0 Purpose of this policy

This document sets out Calder Valley Steiner Education's policy on the use of holding/restraining pupils at the Kindergarten.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and helpers (including parents) working within the kindergarten (and during off-site trips).

In writing this policy, reference has been made to the DfE guidance document: ***Use of reasonable Force. Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies July 2013***

On 23 March 2018 Ofsted also published new guidance entitled *Positive environments where children can flourish Guidance for inspectors about how to approach the use of physical intervention, restraint and restrictions of liberty in social care settings and schools.*

2.0 Objectives of this policy

The objectives of this policy are as follows

- To ensure all staff, trustees and 'others' e.g. assistants and voluntary helpers including parents are aware of exactly what they may do, and under what circumstances prior to, during and after the holding of or restraint of a child.
- To ensure children are supported following any incidents which have resulted in the holding or restraint by a member of the teaching/support staff.

3.0 Procedures leading up to a physical restraint.

Whenever a teacher or assistant is met with a situation where they need to consider holding a child, they will first give verbal signals that are repetitive, firm and clear. Where reasonably possible, children should not be shouted at.

4.0 When can reasonable force be used?

- Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing serious disorder.
- 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.

Reasonable force (physical restraint) may be used to:

- prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground
- restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts
- prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a class, event or a school trip or visit
- prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others

Force may NOT be used as a punishment – it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

5.0 Other information

- No action will be taken which might cause an injury.
- Staff should avoid holding or touching a pupil in an inappropriate way.
- In an emergency, any member of staff is entitled to intervene.
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Teachers will always try to use other strategies and techniques to deal with difficult situations. In a non-urgent situation restraint will only be used when all other strategies have failed.

6.0 Following restraint/holding

A written record of any incident where restraint was used will be kept in the Incident Book, and another member of staff will be informed (usually the Setting Manager). This record will include the names of those involved, any witnesses, the reason for intervention and details of the incident. Any steps taken to defuse the situation, what action was taken, the outcome and any injuries or damaged sustained.

Parents will generally be informed of any incident involving the use of restraint. In deciding whether to report the use of restraint to parents, teachers will use their professional judgement and consider:

- the pupil's behaviour and level of risk presented at the time of the incident
- the degree of force used
- the effect on the pupil or member of staff
- the child's age

Any complaints may be dealt with through the CVSE Complaints Procedure.

7.0 Other physical contact with pupils

It is not illegal to touch a pupil. There are occasions when physical contact, other than reasonable force, with a pupil is proper and necessary. Examples of where touching a pupil might be proper or necessary include:

- Holding the hand of the child at the front/back of the line when going to assembly, when walking together around the kindergarten, or on a trip off site;
- Greeting a child with a handshake;
- When comforting a distressed pupil;
- When a pupil is being congratulated or praised;
- To demonstrate how to use a musical instrument;
- To demonstrate exercises or techniques during movement skills, handwork or other specific movement skills;
- To give first aid or applying sunscreen.

- **Note: any inappropriate behaviour on behalf of a member of staff or volunteer must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with the CVSE Safeguarding policy.**

Monitoring Compliance and Effectiveness

- This document will be reviewed annually
- All serious incidents will be recorded
- The teaching staff will adhere to this policy
- Any serious incidents will be used confidentially as a learning tool for teaching staff
- Through the appraisal process the kindergarten will ensure that all teaching staff are aware of and have adequate training around physical restraint and understand the intervention pathway.

§ Related Policies

- CVSE Safeguarding policy (including the Prevent Duty) 2021
- CVSE Supporting positive behaviour (inclusion policy)
- CVSE Exclusion and Suspension policy
- CVSE Anti Bullying and Behavioural policy