



Bosworth
Independent
School

Positive Handling Policy

Reviewed	July 2024
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Lead for Review	Deputy Headmaster

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Definition of Restraint

The use of physical presence to alter the course of action of another member of the School community or visitor.

Under no circumstances should physical force be used as a punishment.

We Should Avoid

- Doing anything that might be beyond the presumptive definition of reasonable force.
- Touching or holding a student in a way that might be considered inappropriate.

We Should

- Always try to deal with a situation through other strategies before using force. (Thus the use of physical restraint is a last resort).
- Use restraint in the following emergency situations but be very aware that it should be at the minimum level necessary to protect both the student involved and other members of the School.

Restraint May Be Used To Prevent A Student

- Committing a criminal offence (or what would be a criminal offence if they were old enough).
- Injuring themselves or others.
- Damaging property.
- Acting in a way that is counter to maintaining a good order and discipline in the School. (It would be useful to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team but we recognise that this is not always possible).

In the event of a student walking out of a lesson, unauthorised leaving of a Boarding House or other School activity, physical restraint should NOT be used. It would suffice to ask the student, "Are you refusing to follow my instruction?", if the reply is in the negative then inform the student that they are "Breaking School rules, disobeying a lawful instruction and there will be serious consequences following this.". The issue should then be reported to a member of the School Senior Leadership Team.

Reasonable Physical Interventions Might Be:

- Placing yourself between students.
- Blocking a student's path.
- Holding.
- Pushing or pulling. (to remove a student from danger)
- Leading a student by the hand or arm.
- Shepherding a student away by placing a hand in the centre of the back.

Any incidents that occur that involve deliberate contact other than extremely minor physicality should be discussed with at least one of the following: The Head of Boarding, the Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster or the most senior teacher available, within 24 hours. A record of the event must be made using the form on the form below. Parents will be informed.

Report of Reasonable Restraint of a Student

Name of student..... Year Group.....

Member(s) of staff restraining student

Member(s) of staff at the scene

Names of other students present:

Time, date and Location of incident:

Report. (Please cross following boxes to confirm details included.)

- Reasons for restraining student
- How long you estimate restraint was necessary
- Verbal instruction given first
- How student reacted and his/her state of mind
- Where student was restrained and touched
- Names of witnesses present
- How student was supported after restraint ended
- Any support needed for staff members

Signed.....Date.....

PRINT Name.....