

Vision and values underpinning this policy

This is the agreed vision statement of Christ Church School:

**Christ Church School, Hampstead**

A village school in London inspiring *life in all its fullness*

Jesus, The Good Shepherd, promises 'life in all its fullness'. (JOHN 10:10)

At Christ Church we believe every child and adult in our school should be able both to experience life in all its fullness now and to aspire to life in all its fullness in the future.

We all seek to inspire life in all its fullness for all in the school through:

- ensuring a **safe, welcoming and inclusive environment** for children and adults, where everyone is valued and has the opportunity to contribute and flourish;
- the pursuit of **academic excellence** in all areas, with a determined desire for each child to make the best possible progress as a result of high aspirations, hard work and the development of a personal love for learning alongside the highest-quality teaching and support;
- offering the widest possible **breadth of curriculum** both within school and through extra-curricular activities, enriched by the vast range of opportunities locally and across London;
- **creativity and positivity** in all we do, mixing innovation with tradition;
- planned and spontaneous opportunities for **spiritual development** through reflection, discussion and harnessing curiosity, as well as the provision, at the heart of our school life, of daily opportunities for prayer and worship;
- the development and modelling of **strong, positive and loving relationships**, with peers, amongst the school community and in the wider community;
- the promotion of **respect and compassion for ourselves and for all others**, by cultivating positive emotional and physical well-being, by celebrating the diversity within and outside our school and by encouraging all of us to be empowered global citizens, guided at all times by the example of Christ's compassion alongside the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- engendering a **sense of community, justice and responsibility** for others and for our local and global environment and enjoying working together towards our common goals and expecting and valuing contributions from all.

Our vision is brought to life through the school's five shared Christian values of **compassion, creativity, courage, simplicity and community**.

This Policy on Physical Contact with Children aims to support our vision for *life in all its fullness* by contributing, in particular, to how we promote respect and compassion for ourselves and others, how we develop and model strong, positive and loving relationships between all those in our school community and how we engender a sense of community and responsibility in all. This Policy also supports us in ensuring our school is a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment.

Aims of this policy

- To support the vision and values of our school, in particular ensuring our school is a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all
- To ensure that the school's duty of care to both pupils and staff is fully and appropriately discharged
- To clarify for all stakeholders (including parents) the school's philosophy and position on physical contact between adults and children in school
- To provide a framework for physical contact between adults and children that is legal, effective, safe, appropriate and proportionate

- To give confidence to all staff in situations when physical contact with children is necessary and appropriate
- To set out the school's procedures to follow in certain circumstances of physical contact between children and adults, e.g. in circumstances of restrictive interventions
- To ensure that the school fosters an environment in which pupils, parents and staff will work together

Development of this policy

This policy was originally developed in consultation with all staff groups in the school, with the pupils, via school council, and with the Governors Behaviour and Safety committee. The policy is publicised to all parents in the school, via the school newsletter, and copies made available via the school office and school website.

This policy was developed in line with the guidance contained in the Camden Children and Learning Directorate document 'Restrictive intervention and use of reasonable force policy for schools, nurseries and centres' (April 2026 update) and the relevant legislation and government guidance (Education Act 1996, Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, DfE Use of Reasonable Force and Other Restrictive Interventions Guidance 2026, DfE Searching, screening and confiscation July 2022 update). The school has also adopted the Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings (February 2022 version).

Statement on physical contact with children

All that happens at Christ Church School is founded on the vision and values set out above, which are reviewed regularly with staff, pupils, parents and governors.

At Christ Church School, we believe that there are many circumstances when physical contact between adults and children in the school is appropriate and necessary. These circumstances include instances of positive physical contact and the use of restrictive interventions and reasonable force. We believe that staff members should have the confidence to use physical contact in these circumstances, within the framework of this policy and the wider legal framework, with the knowledge that they have the full support of the school's Headteacher, leadership team and Governing Body.

At Christ Church School, we also acknowledge that no policy or guidance can cover every possible circumstance where physical contact between adults and children in school may occur and that staff members should have the confidence to use their own professional judgement, within the framework of this policy and the wider legal framework.

This policy should be read alongside and implemented within the framework of the school's current Positive Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy. This policy should also be read and implemented alongside the school's current Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures, Complaints Policy, Health and Safety Policy and relevant risk assessments and Staff Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures.

Positive Physical Contact between children and adults in school

There are many regular circumstances of positive physical contact between children and adults in school. These circumstances, which never include restricting the movements of another person against their resistance, include:

- comforting, reassuring or calming children who are upset or anxious (e.g. an arm around the shoulder)
- refocusing children to their task (e.g. a gentle touch on the arm)
- guiding a child away from/to a situation, without force (e.g. holding hands leading a line of children, a guiding hand on the shoulder)
- giving first aid or helping a child to get changed (e.g. for a child who has wet themselves)
- supporting or guiding a child in certain lessons (e.g. providing support for a balance in gymnastics, demonstrating how to use a piece of equipment correctly, supporting or guiding a child in necessary therapy e.g. OT therapy)

At Christ Church School, we believe that, within the framework of this policy, these instances of positive physical contact support children and help to keep them safe.

Key issues to consider in any circumstances of physical contact between adults and children in school

In any circumstances of physical contact between adults and children in school, (including the examples of positive physical contact described above,) there are a number of key factors for the adult involved to consider in making a professional and informed decision about whether the physical contact is appropriate. At Christ Church School, we

recognise that these factors will need to be considered immediately and, sometimes, in difficult and challenging circumstances.

Issues to consider:

- adult's knowledge of the child (background, history, circumstances)
- age of the child (and age difference between adult and child)
- relationship between child and adult
- gender of child and adult
- context and circumstances of the situation (including why, where, when and the presence or not of other adults or children)
- type of physical contact and where on the body physical contact takes place

Physical intervention - legal framework

On rare occasions, school staff may need to use restrictive interventions in order to safeguard pupils or maintain discipline within the school environment. Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE) recognises that there are circumstances where it is appropriate for staff to use restrictive interventions or reasonable force to achieve these aims and states that schools should not have a no contact policy as this can put staff and pupils at risk.

Restrictive interventions and reasonable force should only be used as a last resort, normally when de-escalation strategies have failed, and when there is a clear risk of serious harm to the pupils or others or of serious damage to property or serious disruption.

Camden's core statement on restrictive interventions and reasonable force

Restrictive interventions and reasonable force should only be used when they are **necessary and proportionate**, after de-escalation strategies have been attempted where appropriate and when there is a clear risk of serious harm to the pupil or others, or serious damage to property or to prevent disorder.

Decisions on when to use restrictive intervention is a matter of professional judgement, and any intervention or restraint should be proportionate and reasonable in the context of the perceived risk and in the pupil's best interests. This would normally be after de-escalation strategies have failed. Should such an intervention be required the school should record the details, including any injury, and contact the parent/carers on the same day to explain the circumstances involved.

Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 establishes the powers of adults in schools to use *reasonable force* in order to:

- prevent a pupil from hurting themselves or others
- prevent a pupil from causing serious damage to property
- remove a disruptive pupil from a classroom
- prevent a pupil from causing disorder among pupils during school activities, including during off-site visits
- prevent a pupil from leaving a classroom where there is a risk to their safety or the safety of others

This applies to teachers, support staff and any other adults that the Headteacher has authorised to have control of children in the school.

Statutory Definitions and Safety Standards

This policy adopts the legal definitions and safety standards set out in the DfE April 2026 guidance.

- **Restrictive Intervention:** The umbrella term for any action, physical or non-physical, that restricts a pupil's movement.
- **Reasonable Force:** Using no more force than is needed for the shortest time possible.
- **Restraint:** An intervention which immobilises a pupil or limits their movement (e.g., a physical hold).
- **Seclusion:** A non-disciplinary intervention where a pupil is confined alone and prevented from leaving (e.g., blocking a door).
- **Significant Incident:** Any use of force beyond minor physical contact, which triggers a legal duty to record and report.

Legal Prohibitions:

1. It is illegal to use force on a pupil for the purpose of punishment.
2. Staff must never use holds that affect a pupil's breathing or airway.
3. Ground Holds: Staff must not use force to intentionally bring a pupil to the ground. If a pupil ends up on the ground during an intervention, staff must immediately adjust their hold to ensure no pressure is applied to the torso and move the pupil into a safe seated or standing position as soon as possible.

For more information refer to:

DfE Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force in schools, (applies from April 2026)

[Use of reasonable force and other restrictive interventions guidance](#)

Section 550ZB of the Education Act 1996 allows schools to use reasonable force to carry out searches for prohibited items where the young person has not consented to the search. Prohibited items are

- knives and weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage property

For more information refer to:

Searching, screening and confiscation in schools

[Searching, screening and confiscation in schools - GOV.UK](#)

Senior leadership responsibilities, including access to training

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher, leadership team and Governors of the school to

- ensure that there is a culture of respect and good relationships between staff and pupils so that the need for high-level or physical intervention is reduced.
- ensure that this Policy
 - is disseminated to all staff members so that it can be implemented by all staff members as a whole school approach
 - is reviewed regularly (at least every three years or when there is a change in guidance) taking into account the views of stakeholders and reviews of any incidents of restrictive intervention
 - is part of an overarching strategy for behaviour management and is closely aligned with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy and other relevant policies.
- make relevant and appropriate training available to staff members (in both de-escalation and behaviour management strategies as well as general or specialist training in physical intervention and restraint techniques, as relevant) so that they are confident to deal with incidents and only use restrictive intervention where necessary. Senior leaders will also give consideration to the training requests of staff members.
- develop and regularly review a suitable risk assessment for the use of restrictive intervention in school and take steps to minimise risk to staff or pupils.
- ensure staff are aware of any agreed adjustments to the policy or procedures which are in place for individual pupils who are vulnerable due to learning and other disabilities, autism or mental health difficulties.
- provide appropriate support (to staff and pupils) following an incident where physical intervention has been necessary; (this may include providing medical treatment or immediate time out of the classroom); also provide through informal and formal processes the opportunity for staff to discuss concerns about physical contact
- ensure there is a system in place to record and monitor incidents where restrictive intervention have been used
- provide access to complaints procedures for children, parents and staff and implement these appropriately

Restrictive intervention – key principles and the use of *reasonable force*

Restrictive intervention can cover a wide variety of contact with pupils with varying degrees of intrusiveness ranging from positive handling, such as gentle guiding, to physical contact that involves some degree of restraint and the use of physical force.

A member of staff will sometimes need to rely on their professional judgement about whether or not to physically intervene by placing her/himself in a hazardous situation, or stand back and by that allow a child or colleague to face a potential hazard. Staff must balance the level and duration of their intervention against the seriousness and likely consequences of the incident.

At Christ Church School we believe there are several key principles to consider in the use of any restrictive intervention:

- the use of restrictive intervention can be used in the extreme circumstances which fall within the legal framework set out above
- the definition of *reasonable force* will always be a matter of personal and professional judgement which will need to be justified and recorded; reasonable force should involve 'no more force than is needed'
- any restrictive intervention should be aimed to reduce the situation rather than provoke it and should never have the reasonable expectation of injuring another person
- the risk of not intervening should always be considered against the risk of intervening (this balance may be different for different adults)
- the adult intervening must consider that the action they are taking is in the best interest of the situation and that the force used is reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances
- restrictive intervention should only be used as a last resort and in exceptional circumstances, not in place of other strategies set out in our positive behaviour policy
- adults should always attempt to de-escalate the situation before considering the use of restrictive intervention
- any adult considering the use of restrictive intervention should also take into account the key issues set out above (age, gender, circumstances etc)
- all stakeholders should be aware that there is the potential of injury to both child and adult in any restrictive intervention
- parents should be aware that their consent is not required to use restrictive intervention

Dealing with incidents – de-escalation

De-escalation techniques must be used if possible in the first instance and staff should:

- make the pupil and others present aware that the staff member is taking control of the situation;
- ask other pupils to leave in order to calm the situation;
- send for assistance from another staff member (particularly if restrictive intervention is likely to be needed);
- remain calm and respectful and speak slowly and clearly to the pupil to give reassurance and instructions;
- be aware of their tone of voice and body language;
- where possible, use minimal force/positive handling to gently guide the pupil away from danger (but be aware of risk to self);
- be aware of their own emotions and avoid allowing the situation to spiral;
- if the pupil is pacing, try to remain still and avoid mirroring their anxiety;
- keep a respectful distance and avoid encroaching on the pupil's personal space
- give the young person options so that they have an opportunity to resolve the situation in a dignified manner
- be specific to a pupil's SEND or individual circumstances

De-escalation techniques should be used where there is an opportunity to do so but not in a situation where a pupil is already at risk of harm and action is needed. However, staff can continue to use many of the techniques listed above during restraint to calm and reassure the young person.

(See appendix for further advice to staff on managing confrontation and de-escalation)

Dealing with incidents – use of restrictive intervention

All staff have a duty of care to pupils and have the power to use restrictive intervention, including restraint where required. Use of force must be reasonable, proportionate and necessary.

The procedure for any restrictive intervention to restrain a child should include

- the use of other techniques to de-escalate the situation (for example reasoning, referral to positive behaviour policy or consequences, removal of audience etc)
- a clear instruction to the child to stop (stop kicking!)
- a warning from the adult that they are going to intervene (stop kicking x or I will have to hold your leg to keep you/x safe)
- an attempt from the adult to summon another adult
- restrictive intervention with the minimum amount of force and for the minimum amount of time necessary, while continuing to talk calmly to the child (if you stop kicking, I will let go)
- restrictive intervention should not restrict breathing or blood supply, should avoid bringing the pupil to the ground and should not involve any contact that may amount to a criminal offence such as assault
- the pupil should be released slowly and safely as soon as it is felt they are sufficiently in control of their emotions
- Statutory Recording Duty: Every significant incident or instance of seclusion must be recorded by the end of the school day. The record must specifically note the approximate duration of the intervention and the pupil's SEN status code.
- Statutory Notification to Parents: Parents/carers must be informed of any significant incident of force or instance of seclusion no later than the end of the school day on which the incident occurred. This notification should include the nature of the intervention, its approximate duration, and any injuries sustained.

Although it is not possible to cover every circumstance where the use of restrictive intervention might be considered, at Christ Church School these circumstances *may* include

- children fighting
- a child self-harming
- a child attacking an adult or child
- a child attempting to leave a safe area or the school site itself (including leaving the group when participating in an offsite visit) to enter a more dangerous area

Examples of the type of restrictive intervention which may be appropriate are:

- contact designed to control movement (e.g. holding arms by sides or holding arms or legs to prevent kicking/striking)
- the use of force (without causing injury) to remove a dangerous object from the child's grasp
- a holding tactic (learnt in specific training, without causing injury) until a child calms down
- physically preventing a child from leaving a safe area to prevent them exposing themselves to danger

Following an incident – recording and reporting

Behaviour incidents are recorded in line with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy and in line with the guidance set out in DfE Guidance on Restrictive Interventions (2026).

Following any incident which necessitates physical contact to restrain, the record should be completed within 24 hours of the incident and include details of

- time/date/location and approximate duration of the intervention
- names of staff and pupils involved
- any relevant needs or circumstances of the pupil, including whether the pupil involved has an identified Special Educational Need or disability
- events leading up to the incident – brief account of why the intervention was assessed as necessary in that instance
- nature of physical intervention including degree of force
- outcome of incident, including any injuries sustained
- any post-incident support, such as details of any medical treatment for injuries or other adverse impact

The head teacher must be informed of all incidents immediately. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should also be informed of any incidents that may raise safeguarding issues.

Parents will almost always be informed following serious incidents involving the use of force to restrictive intervention and this decision should be made by the head teacher. Where reporting the incident to a parent may cause serious harm to the pupil, the head teacher may make the decision to report the incident to the Local Authority instead. Parents will be informed in person, by telephone or by email as soon as practicable and no later than the end of the school day on which the incident occurred. Incidents will be reported to parents in line with the guidance set out in DfE Guidance on Restrictive Interventions (2026) including as a minimum:

- time/date/location and approximate duration of the intervention
- brief account of why the intervention was assessed as necessary in that instance
- brief account of what type of force was applied and the degree of force
- details of any physical injuries sustained, if applicable

A report on the use of instances of restrictive intervention forms part of the head teacher's annual behaviour report to the Governing Body.

Following an incident - support

It should be acknowledged that the use of restrictive intervention including restraint carries an inherent risk of injury to staff and pupils involved. It may be necessary to ensure staff and pupils receive any required medical attention and are able to talk to someone who was not involved in the incident about what happened and why.

Use of restrictive intervention including restraint can be upsetting for pupils and staff and schools should have procedures in place for dealing with the aftermath of incidents so that those involved have time and space to recover and reflect on what happened so that this learning can be used to review and improve policies.

For vulnerable pupils, staff and parents, where possible, should be able to discuss the incident and consider whether the behaviour support plan needs to be changed and what learning can be taken from the incident.

Following an incident – monitoring and reviewing

Christ Church School will regularly monitor and review the use of restrictive intervention including restraint as a means of learning from incidents to improve practice and inform risk assessments in order to avoid the need for restrictive intervention. Information on incidents helps to inform any risk assessment both on a whole-school level and in terms of individual or groups of pupils. This is particularly important in the case of vulnerable pupils who may be more susceptible to experiencing restrictive interventions.

Separate debriefing sessions for both pupils and members of staff who have been involved in the intervention will allow opportunities to explore antecedents, consequences and alternative courses of action. The school's leadership team will review the incident to consider:

- whether the restrictive intervention was necessary, appropriate and proportionate
- whether the school's policy was followed
- whether steps were taken to ensure that restrictive intervention used the minimum reasonable force for the minimum length of time and caused the minimum amount of pain and distress
- whether any alternative strategies could have been used
- whether any alternative or additional training or guidance is necessary for an individual member of staff or the whole staff team
- whether any further steps can be taken to reduce the need for restrictive intervention in the future
- what steps were taken following the incident and whether separate debriefing sessions were held for all those involved

The Headteacher will report the outcomes of any such review and the actions taken to the Governors Behaviour and Safety committee.

Following an incident - complaints

The school publishes a complaints policy and ensures that pupils and parents know how to make a complaint following the use of any physical contact, including restrictive intervention, if they should wish to.

The use of force for a restrictive intervention including restraint can lead to accusations against staff by pupils and parents of improper conduct or assault, so it is essential that schools have in place clear policies and procedures around the use of physical contact including restrictive intervention so that staff have a defence against such allegations.

Where an incident of physical contact including restrictive intervention leads to an allegation being made against a member of staff, this will be dealt with under the CSCP "*Guidance for schools on managing allegations against staff and volunteers*" and the matter will be referred to the LADO.

This guidance makes it clear that reasonable force can be used to control or restrain in specific circumstances and this will be taken into account when deciding on what action to take. However, it must be demonstrated that the staff member followed agreed practice and procedure. It should be made clear to staff that force may only be used within the parameters set out in the school's policy and that any deviation from acceptable practice will leave the staff member vulnerable to complaints and allegations.

Vulnerable pupils

This policy is intended to cover the range of behaviours and situations usually found at Christ Church School, but it should be recognised that there may be individual children whose behaviour falls outside this range (on a long term or temporary basis) Some pupils may exhibit challenging behaviour in response to overstimulating environments, stressful situations or an inability to communicate distress in any other way. This can make them more vulnerable to experiencing restrictive intervention including restraint and it is likely the experience will be traumatising.

Schools should be mindful of pupils that may be vulnerable such as (but not limited to):

- children who have learning and other disabilities and autism
- children who are experiencing mental health difficulties
- children who have experienced trauma in their lives, for example, looked after children, refugee children and unaccompanied minors, children living with domestic abuse and children with child protection plans.

Under the Equalities Act 2010, it is essential that schools can demonstrate that reasonable adjustments have been made to ensure any policy on physical contact and restrictive intervention does not disadvantage these pupils.

Government guidance *Reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention* also requires schools to take steps to reduce the use of restrictive interventions for vulnerable children and this will be a feature of any inspection carried out by the CQC and Ofsted

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reducing-the-need-for-restraint-and-restrictive-intervention>

Schools must demonstrate that the specific needs of these pupils have been considered and that the school will tailor their approach accordingly to avoid discrimination against these pupils. School policies on behaviour management should uphold the rights of vulnerable pupils, ensure their safety and dignity, and work in partnership with parents to reduce the need for restrictive intervention.

Vulnerable pupils at Christ Church School will be subject to the requirements set out in this policy and the school's Positive Behaviour Policy, but, for these pupils, Christ Church School will also put in place the following additional provision:

- Vulnerable pupils whose behaviour is likely to increase the risk of restrictive intervention will have a Behaviour Support Plan in place and pupils and parents will be fully involved in agreeing this plan. However, it should be noted that not all vulnerable pupils will require this. The Behaviour Support Plan may form part of the pupil's Personal Plan or Provision Map setting out their wider SEND needs and provision.
- The Behaviour Support Plan will be written by the school's senior leadership team and be in place from the first practical point after it is identified that the pupil's behaviour may increase the risk of physical intervention and restraint. (Triggers for writing a plan include, but are not restricted to, two separate

incidents of physical intervention taking place.) The Plan will be regularly reviewed with pupil, parents and staff.

- The Behaviour Support Plan will include:
 - basic information about the pupil and where to find additional information
 - strategies for managing challenging behaviour and a hierarchical response ranging from prevention, de-escalation and detailing how incidents will be dealt with and recorded
 - an assessment of the pupil's particular needs and how these contribute to challenging behaviour, including any triggers for challenging behaviour and what steps can be taken to avoid these triggers and maintain a positive learning environment for the pupil
 - any techniques for de-escalating situations and how best to manage challenging behaviour in order to avoid use of restrictive intervention including restraint
 - forms of restrictive intervention to be used, which are identified and agreed in advance and set out clearly so that pupils and parents understand the circumstances in which they will be used
 - which staff members will be responsible for the plan's implementation and what specific training they will receive to support them in this role
 - information about any transitions that a pupil may experience between services or locations as movement to unfamiliar places may be a trigger for challenging behaviour
 - a plan for progression to work towards the removal of the need for physical contact
- The Behaviour Support Plan will run alongside or incorporate a specific risk assessment for the individual pupil considering the risks to the pupil and other pupils and adults, the risks from restrictive intervention and the risks from not intervening.
- The Behaviour Support Plan will be available for all adults working with the child and will also be summarised and orally shared with all staff.

Training

Training from a relevant trainer increases staff confidence in dealing with incidents and reduces risks. Training must equip staff to use restrictive interventions safely, assess proportionality under pressure, understand individual risk assessments and comply with statutory recording and reporting duties.

Christ Church School's leadership team considers training needs in the context of

- the needs of pupils, including individual vulnerable pupils
- the needs and training requests of staff members
- the number and seriousness of incidents that are likely to occur in the school
- the fact that any member of staff may need to intervene in emergency situation.

All staff receive training on how to prevent the need for restrictive intervention, including how to de-escalate situations and awareness of this policy and positive handling techniques.

The Senior Leadership Team will identify the most appropriate members of staff for specialist training in restrictive intervention including restraint techniques and keep a record of which training staff have received and those staff who have received specialist training.

Review and monitoring

As set out above, the Governors Behaviour and Safety committee will monitor the number and type of instances where restrictive intervention has been necessary.

Monitoring will include

- whether the number of incidents needing restrictive intervention have increased or decreased
- the methods of restrictive intervention used and whether the length of time restrictive intervention is used is kept to a minimum
- whether vulnerable children (or other specific groups of children) are involved

It will also review the actions taken by the school's leadership in response to these instances.

There will be a high-level review of this policy annually and a full review every three years by the school leadership and Governors Behaviour and Safety Committee, in consultation with stakeholders where and when appropriate, to ensure that it is a reflection of current guidance and best practice and relevant to the current circumstances of the school.

Most recently fully reviewed and agreed by the Governors Behaviour and Safety Committee in April 2026

Stage 1: Before – De-escalation to Prevent Crisis

- **Acknowledge and Validate:** Use scripts like "I can see you're upset/anxious; I'm here to help".
- **Language of Choice:** Frame instructions as choices with clear consequences—"If you choose to do X, then Y will happen. Alternatively, you can choose to...".
- **Give Space:** Avoid encroaching on personal space or standing over a pupil. Use "take-up time" by stepping back after giving an instruction.
- **Active Listening:** Reflect back what the pupil is saying to show they have been heard and to check your own accuracy.

Stage 2: During – Strategies During a Significant Incident

- **Manage Yourself:** Deliberately speak slower, lower, and more quietly to avoid a "conflict spiral".
- **Command Presence:** Use clear, simple assertive instructions such as "I need you to [action] now" or "Put that down".
- **Remove the Audience:** If possible, move other pupils away from the area to reduce the pressure on the agitated pupil.
- **Safe Handling:** If Restrictive Intervention is required as a last resort, use the minimum force for the shortest time.
- **Ground Safety:** Staff must not intentionally bring a pupil to the ground. If a pupil ends up on the ground, staff MUST immediately adjust the hold and reposition the pupil safely.

Stage 3: After – Statutory Requirements

- **Safety First:** Provide immediate medical attention and space for the pupil to calm down.
- **Mandatory Record:** A formal record MUST be completed by the end of the school day. This must include the approximate duration of the intervention and the pupil's SEN status code.
- **Parental Notification:** Parents/carers MUST be informed of any significant incident or seclusion by the end of the school day.
- **Staff Support:** All staff involved should have a debriefing session with the SLT to reflect on triggers and future prevention