

WE 'GROW AND SHINE IN
GOD'S GLORY'



MOUNT CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Restrictive Interventions, Reasonable Force and Seclusion Policy

Policy:	Restrictive Interventions, Reasonable Force and Seclusion Policy
Approved by:	Governing Body
Date:	March 2026
Review cycle:	Annually

VERSION CONTROL			
VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	CHANGES
2026	23.03.2025	KH	Restrictive Interventions, Reasonable Force and Seclusion Policy implemented

1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy sets out Mount CofE Primary School's approach to the use of restrictive interventions, including reasonable force and seclusion, in line with the latest UK government legislation and guidance effective from 1st April 2026.

It aims to:

- Ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of all pupils and staff.
- Clarify when and how restrictive interventions can be used as a last resort.
- Support a nurturing, inclusive environment consistent with our Christian values of Caring, Hope, Understanding, Respect, Co-operation, and Happiness.
- Comply with statutory duties under the Education Act 1996, the Children Act 1989, the Equality Act 2010, and relevant government guidance including "Keeping Learners Safe" and updated suspension and exclusion guidance.

This policy reflects the school's vision by prioritising safeguarding, dignity, and inclusion. It addresses the specific risks within our context, including supporting pupils with SEND, pupils with trauma histories, and pupils who may experience emotional dysregulation.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils at Mount CofE Primary School, including those with SEND, EHC plans, and from diverse cultural backgrounds.
 - All school staff, including teaching, support, and leadership teams.
 - Parents, carers, and wider community partners involved in pupil welfare.
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3. Definitions

- **Restrictive Interventions:** Any physical or non-physical intervention that restricts a pupil's movement, liberty, or freedom to act.
 - **Reasonable Force:** The minimum force necessary to prevent harm to pupils, staff, or others, or to prevent serious damage to property, in line with updated DfE guidance (2026).
 - **Seclusion:** The supervised confinement of a pupil alone in a room or area from which they are not free to leave, used only in exceptional circumstances and as a last resort.
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4. Legal and Regulatory Framework

The policy is informed by:

- Education Act 1996 (Section 93)
- Children Act 1989
- Equality Act 2010
- Keeping Learners Safe (Welsh Government Circular 272/2021)
- Safe and Effective Intervention: Use of Reasonable Force and Searching for Weapons (Welsh Government Guidance 097/2013)
- DfE guidance on Restrictive Physical Intervention and updated suspension and exclusion guidance (2026)
- SEND Code of Practice (2015, updated 2026)

Changes effective from 1 April 2026 include:

- updated definitions of reasonable force and restrictive practices
- strengthened requirements for recording and reporting
- clearer expectations for parental notification
- enhanced protections for pupils with SEND
- updated exclusion and suspension processes requiring evidence of preventative measures

These updates are reflected throughout this policy.

5. Principles and Values

- Restrictive interventions are **only used as a last resort**, when all other de-escalation and preventative strategies have failed.
- The **safety and dignity** of pupils must be maintained at all times.
- Interventions must be **proportionate, necessary, and reasonable** in the circumstances.
- The school recognises the **increased vulnerability of pupils with SEND and EAL** and adapts approaches accordingly.
- Staff are trained regularly to use positive behaviour management and restrictive interventions safely and lawfully.
- The school promotes a **culture of reflection, repair, and restoration** after any incident.

These principles reflect our commitment to inclusion, safeguarding and the wellbeing of every child.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Stakeholder	Responsibilities
Governing Body	Approve and monitor the implementation of this policy; ensure compliance with legal requirements; oversee staff training and incident reporting.
Headteacher / Senior Leadership Team	Lead on policy implementation; ensure staff are trained and supported; review incidents; liaise with parents and external agencies; maintain records.
All Staff	Understand and adhere to the policy; use de-escalation techniques; apply restrictive interventions only when necessary; report and record incidents accurately.
Parents / Carers	Engage with the school regarding behaviour and interventions; support their child's positive behaviour and reintegration after incidents.
Pupils	Understand behavioural expectations; engage positively with staff; participate in restorative processes following incidents.

7. Implementation and Procedures

7.1 Prevention and De-escalation

- Use a **whole-school behaviour approach** aligned with the school's Christian values.
- Employ **early identification** of pupils at risk of crisis and use personalised support plans.
- Use **positive behaviour support, clear routines, and rewards** to minimise incidents.
- Staff trained in **de-escalation techniques** and trauma-informed approaches.

7.2 Use of Reasonable Force

- Reasonable force may be used to:
 - Prevent a pupil from harming themselves or others.

- Prevent damage to property.
 - Maintain good order and safety.
- Physical interventions must be the **minimum necessary** and applied for the shortest time possible.
- **Types of reasonable force** may include:
 - Physically guiding a pupil away from danger.
 - Holding a pupil to prevent violence.
- **Unacceptable practises** include any form of punishment, pain infliction, or restraint that restricts breathing or causes injury.

7.3 Use of Seclusion

- Seclusion is only used in **exceptional circumstances**, when a pupil poses an immediate risk and no other alternatives exist.
- The pupil must be **supervised continuously** and allowed access to basic needs.
- Seclusion must be **recorded and reviewed** by senior leaders promptly.
- Parents must be informed **immediately** when seclusion is used.

7.4 Recording and Reporting

- All incidents involving restrictive interventions must be:
 - **Recorded in detail** including context, actions taken, duration, and staff involved.
 - Reported to the Headteacher or designated safeguarding lead immediately.
 - Communicated to parents/carers as soon as possible.
- The school maintains a **central log, on CPOMS**, of all incidents for monitoring and review.

7.5 Post-Incident Support and Reflection

- Pupils and staff involved receive **appropriate support** following an incident.
 - A **restorative conversation or meeting** should take place to repair harm and reflect on triggers and prevention.
 - Behaviour plans and risk assessments should be **updated** accordingly.
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8. Training and Development

- All staff will receive **mandatory training** on positive behaviour management, restrictive interventions, and safeguarding annually.
 - Additional specialist training will be provided for staff working with pupils with complex needs or high-risk behaviours.
 - Training will be kept up to date with changes in legislation and best practice.
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9. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

- The policy will be reviewed **annually** or sooner if required by changes in legislation or school context.
 - The Governing Body will receive **regular reports** on incidents and training compliance.
 - Pupil and parent feedback will be sought to inform policy effectiveness.
 - The school will use data to identify patterns and develop preventative strategies.
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10. Communication and Engagement

- This policy will be made available to all staff, parents, and pupils via the school website and on request.
 - The school will actively engage parents and carers in behaviour support plans and reintegration processes.
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11. Related Policies and Documents

- Behaviour Policy
 - Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
 - SEND Policy and SEND Information Report
 - Anti-Bullying Policy
 - Attendance Policy
 - Staff Code of Conduct
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12. Useful Resources

- Department for Education Guidance on Use of Reasonable Force (2026)
- Keeping Learners Safe – Welsh Government Circular 272/2021
- Safe and Effective Intervention: Use of Reasonable Force and Searching for Weapons, Welsh Government Guidance 097/2013
- SEND Code of Practice (2015, updated 2026)

Mount CofE Primary School is committed to ensuring that restrictive interventions are used safely, fairly, and only when absolutely necessary, supporting our pupils to grow and shine in God's glory in a safe and nurturing environment.