



**Elevate Learning Federation
(DRIGHLINGTON & ROBIN HOOD
PRIMARY SCHOOLS)**

**Restrictive Interventions and Use of
Reasonable Force Policy**

Adopt by Governing Body on 23rd March 2026

To be reviewed by Governors – March 2028

1. Purpose

Elevate Learning Federation is committed to maintaining a **safe, calm and supportive environment** for all pupils and staff.

This policy outlines the school's approach to the **use of restrictive interventions, including reasonable force**, in accordance with:

- **Education and Inspections Act 2006**
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education**
- **DfE guidance: Restrictive interventions in schools**
- **Behaviour in Schools guidance**

The school's approach prioritises **de-escalation, prevention and positive behaviour support**.

Restrictive interventions will **only ever be used as a last resort** to prevent harm.

2. Definition of Restrictive Intervention

Restrictive interventions are actions that **limit a pupil's movement, liberty or freedom to act independently**.

These may include:

- **Physical intervention / reasonable force**
- **Blocking or guiding movement**
- **Holding a pupil to prevent injury**
- **Preventing a pupil leaving a safe area where there is risk**

Restrictive interventions are **not used as punishment**.

3. Legal Framework

Under **Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006**, school staff may use reasonable force to prevent a pupil from:

- harming themselves
- harming others
- committing a criminal offence
- damaging property
- causing serious disruption.

Force must always be:

- **reasonable**
- **proportionate**
- **necessary**
- **used for the shortest time possible.**

4. Preventative Approach

The school prioritises **prevention and de-escalation**.

Staff will use strategies including:

- positive behaviour support
- clear routines and expectations
- calm communication
- distraction and redirection
- offering choices
- allowing time and space to regulate
- support from additional adults.

Restrictive intervention will **only be used when these strategies have failed or are not possible.**

5. When Restrictive Intervention May Be Used

Restrictive intervention may be used where necessary to prevent:

- injury to the pupil
- injury to another person
- serious damage to property
- a pupil leaving a safe environment where they may be at risk
- serious disruption that risks safety.

6. Staff Authorised to Use Reasonable Force

All school staff have the **legal authority to use reasonable force.**

However, Elevate Learning Federation ensures that **identified staff receive additional training** in safe physical intervention techniques.

This may include training such as **Team Teach or equivalent behaviour support training.**

7. Types of Physical Intervention

Acceptable interventions may include:

- guiding a pupil by the arm
- blocking movement
- separating pupils involved in conflict
- holding a pupil to prevent injury.

Staff must **avoid techniques that cause pain or distress.**

The **minimum force necessary** must always be used.

8. Prohibited Practices

The following practices are **not permitted:**

- pain-inducing techniques
- restraint used as punishment
- deliberate humiliation
- excessive or prolonged restraint
- restricting breathing.

9. Recording Incidents

All **significant restrictive interventions must be recorded on CPOMS**

Records will include:

- date and time
- location
- staff involved
- pupil(s) involved
- reason intervention was necessary
- strategies used prior to intervention
- type of intervention used
- duration
- outcome.

Records will be reviewed by senior leaders to **monitor patterns and identify support needs.**

10. Informing Parents

Parents will be informed **as soon as reasonably practicable** following any significant restrictive intervention.

Communication will include:

- explanation of what happened
- reassurance about pupil safety
- actions taken following the incident.

11. Post-Incident Support

Following any restrictive intervention:

- the pupil will be supported to **regulate and recover**
- staff involved will have an opportunity to **debrief**
- incidents will be **reviewed to reduce future risk.**

Where necessary, a **behaviour support plan** will be updated.

12. Pupils with SEND

Where pupils are known to present **higher behavioural risk**, the school will develop:

- **individual behaviour plans**
- **risk assessments**
- **agreed de-escalation strategies.**

Restrictive interventions will be **clearly documented and monitored.**

13. Staff Training

Staff will receive training in:

- behaviour management
- de-escalation techniques
- safe use of reasonable force where appropriate
- incident recording procedures on CPOMS

Training will be refreshed regularly.

- **14. Monitoring and Oversight**

Senior leaders will:

- monitor incidents of restrictive intervention
- review patterns or trends
- ensure policies remain effective.

Governors will receive **appropriate safeguarding oversight.**

- **15. Links to Other Policies**

This policy should be read alongside:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy
- Health and Safety Policy.