



Prior Park Schools

An Education for Life

USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

v.15.1

Whole Trust? Yes	Statutory? Yes	Website? Yes
Reviewed: September 2015	Next review: September 2019	



Prior Park Educational Trust, Charity No: 281242, Co. No: 01521832, Registered Office: Prior Park College, Ralph Allen Drive, Combe Down, Bath BA2 5AH

- Prior Park College would not expect any physical restraint to be used by staff in routine/normal circumstances. We do not feel it wise to have any physical contact with students if this can be avoided.
- It is better to control any situation by voice and presence, seeking to deal with the problem through your natural authority.
- Use a calm, measured tone to manage the situation. A hand held as a stop sign (like a policeman's traffic signal) might be an effective signal to establish control.
- There is no legal definition of "reasonable force", although the law says teachers may use reasonable force to prevent a pupil committing a criminal offence OR injuring themselves or others OR causing damage to property OR if acting in self-defence. However, this is a difficult area and, thus, physical force/restraint are better avoided if at all possible.
- If a situation occurs that means you must use some physical restraint, exercise professional caution and ensure any use of force/restraint is proportionate and recorded formally immediately after the event. Give this record to the Deputy Headmaster and explain what happened (if he is not available, go to the Headmaster). If you can, secure an adult witness.
- Attempt to use only minimal restraint, for example gentle guidance by holding an elbow or a restraining hand placed lightly on a shoulder. Seek to alert the participants to what they are doing. If pupils are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, behaving recklessly or fighting, you may need to call assistance to establish control and your actions must remain proportionate.
- You must weigh your duty to protect the welfare of the child with the professional risks of using restraint, striving to defuse and control the situation.