

TREVIGLAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**Policy on the Use of Force to Control or Restrain Children and Young People****INTRODUCTION**

This policy is based on guidance outlined in Circular 11/07 – 'The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Students'. The Circular refers to the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which clarifies the position regarding the use of physical force by teachers and other staff working in colleges, to control or restrain students. Staff should also refer to the whole college positive behaviour policy on behaviour and discipline.

PART I

Staff should refer to the Local Authority Policy - Guidelines for the Use of Physical Restraint in Colleges and Social Settings - for more detailed advice. This is available in:

Staff Shared/Read Write/Safeguarding/Guidelines for Physical Restraint

At Treviglas Community College we believe that the use of reasonable force is only necessary to prevent a student from:

- Committing a criminal offence
- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property, including their own
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the college or among any of its students, in the classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere, such intervention would only occur if normal positive behaviour management had not worked

The term "staff" referred to in this policy applies to all employed adults on site. All teachers are empowered to restrain. However, in the first instance the SLT on-call system should be used for immediate response and support by dialling Reception or using channel 8 on the walkie-talkie. The use of restraint should always be a last resort. If practical before intervention, a calm warning or instruction to stop should be given and every effort should be made to achieve a satisfactory outcome through de-escalation and without physical intervention. **In all circumstances help must be sent for, even when immediate intervention is necessary.**

Restraint can take a variety of forms – many of which are outlined in Circular 11/07 and in the LA Guidelines referred to above. The college does not operate a 'no' contact policy. In line with guidance from Cornwall County Council's Behaviour Support Service, it operates a 'safe' touch policy where staff can make contact with students in order to: comfort, guide, hold, secure, escort or respond to dead weight where appropriate. Staff should always avoid touching/holding a student in a way that might be considered inappropriate.

Force, where used, should always be reasonable. There is no definition of 'reasonable force' it should always be proportional to the circumstances of the incident.

It should be used only to control or restrain and never with the intent to cause pain or harm. It must, therefore, be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result. In any action, due regard has to be taken to the age, understanding and sex of the child/young person.

PART II

Where restraint has been necessary, the incident must be reported to the Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher and Safeguarding Officer. The incident must then be recorded in the Restrictive Physical Intervention report record book and logged. Parents/Carers must also be informed, unless this is considered to put the child at risk.

Staff involved must use the proformas, which can be obtained from:

Staff Shared/Read Write/Safeguarding/Report proforma for restraint incident OR Main Reception (First Aid/Accident reporting post)

Following RPI being necessary, the Cornwall Safeguarding Children Unit must also be informed.

Further details about reporting requirements can be found on the county guidelines on Physical Restraint: <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/cypf/index.cfm?articled=16606>

In the event of an injury occurring, the appropriate H/S61 or HSW5 must be completed and the accident reporting procedures must be followed. Parents or carers of the students/young people involved will always be advised of an incident and it may be necessary for it to be followed up by other disciplinary action or pastoral support.

Two member(s) of staff will be provided by the L.A. with training on the use of restraint and will be expected thereafter to arrange guidance for all other staff members both teaching and non-teaching

All parents must be made aware of this policy. All new members of staff and part time staff will be expected to read this policy.

Preferred Practice

DO.....

- Wherever possible plan appropriate positive intervention and involve parents, carers and colleagues.
- Know the procedures within the college's guidelines for the use of physical restraint. A copy of these are available on:
Staff Shared/Read Write/Safeguarding College procedures for Physical Restraint.
Discuss these with a senior member of staff if you are unsure of any point.
- Be aware of children/young people who have been physically restrained before and what happened.
- Send for adult help early if things begin to get out of hand and restraint seems likely.
- Assess the situation before acting.
- Stay calm – do not over-react.
- Use minimum restraint for minimum time until the situation is calm.
- Report the incident to the Head teacher or senior member of staff as soon as possible and complete a report form.
- Consult your Line Manager, Professional Association or Trade Union if you have any concerns.
- Remember your professional obligations to all students in your care.

DO NOT....

- Place yourself at risk : do not attempt to restrain a child/young person who obviously carries a "weapon".
- Attempt to restrain a child/young person when you have lost your temper.
- Allow the situation to get out of control.
- Use unreasonable force.

- Place yourself at risk of false allegation: avoid being alone with any child/ young person.