



**Mission Statement**

*“A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together”*

# REASONABLE FORCE PROCEDURE

**Effective Date:** 01/04/2017

**Review Date:** September 2025 Annual

Review Date	Signed Head Teacher	Signed Director RCSAT
06/09/2018	<i>J. L. J. J. J.</i>	<i>P. B. B. B.</i>
11/09/2019	<i>J. L. J. J. J.</i>	<i>P. B. B. B.</i>
25/09/2020	<i>J. M. Badger</i>	<i>P. B. B. B.</i>
30/09/2021	<i>J. M. Badger</i>	<i>P. B. B. B.</i>
30/09/2022	<i>J. M. Badger</i>	<i>P. B. B. B.</i>
30/09/23	<i>J. M. Badger</i>	<i>P. B. B. B.</i>
30/09/24	<i>J. M. Badger</i>	<i>P. B. B. B.</i>

Persons Responsible for Policy:	Executive Headteacher RCSAT
Approval Date	01/04/2017
Signed:	Director RCSAT
Signed:	Executive Headteacher RCSAT



## 1. Procedure Statements

1.1. The RCSAT is committed to creating an environment in which both children and adults feel happy, safe, secure and valued. We aim to ensure a whole school approach to behaviour known and understood by all staff, children, parents and outside agencies. The use of force upon any pupil by a member of staff is a serious matter, and should only be considered as a last resort. However, the law is clear and the Governing Body has a responsibility to all concerned, to support any member of staff who as a last resort uses reasonable force in accordance with the law, and with this policy.

## 2. Implementation

2.1. The RCSAT has delegated the responsibility for the implementation of this policy through written procedures to the Executive Headteacher and named staff.

## 3. Aims of the Procedure

3.1. The aims of this Reasonable Force Procedure are to:

- 3.1.1. Provide clarification on the use of reasonable force in school;
- 3.1.2. To enable staff to feel more informed and confident about the use of reasonable force when they believe it to be necessary;
- 3.1.3. To make clear the responsibilities of Principals, senior staff and governing bodies in respect of this power;
- 3.1.4. This policy is drawn from advice contained in the document 'Use of Reasonable Force – Advice for principals, staff and governing bodies' issued July 2013 by the Department for Education (DFE);
- 3.1.5. This policy is drawn from the DFE Keeping Children Safe in Education, Sept 2024.

## 4. Key Points

- 4.1. School staff have a legal power to use force and lawful use of this power will provide a defence to any related criminal prosecution or other legal action;
- 4.2. Suspension should not be an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force;
- 4.3. Senior school leaders should support their staff when they use this power.

## 5. What the Law Says

- 5.1 Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables school staff to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following:
  - 5.1.1 Committing a criminal offence;
  - 5.1.2 Causing personal injury to themselves or another;
  - 5.1.3 Causing damage to property belonging to them or another, including the school
  - 5.1.4 Any behaviour prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline in the school.

## 6. Who May Use Force?

6.1. The staff to which this lawful power is granted are defined in the Act. Through this policy, the principal, expressly gives authority to:

All staff who have control or charge of pupils (including teaching staff, teaching assistants, special needs assistants, midday assistants and supply staff) who work in the RCSAT.

## 7. What is Reasonable Force?

- 7.1. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils. The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances. Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- 7.2. As mentioned above, schools generally use force to control pupils and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom. Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example, when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention. School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

## 8. Schools Can Use Reasonable Force

- 8.1. In situations where a pupil (including one from another school) is on school premises or elsewhere in the lawful control or charge of a staff member – for example, on a school visit;
- 8.2. To remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- 8.3. To prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- 8.4. Prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- 8.5. To prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground;
- 8.6. And to restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

## 9. Schools Cannot

- 9.1. Use force as a punishment – **it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.**