

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

Primary person responsible for updates to this policy: James Kidd

Job title: Vice Principal (Pastoral)

Last review date: June 2021

Next review date: June 2022

Circulation: This policy has been adopted by the governors and is available to parents on request. It is addressed to all members of staff and volunteers and applies wherever they are working with children.

'Parents' refers to parents, guardians and carers.

Introduction

As a member of the Alpha Plus group of schools and colleges, DLD College conforms to Alpha Plus's Discipline and Restraint Policy, which can be found here:

<https://egiportal.alphaplusgroup.co.uk/Alpha%20Plus%20Group%20Information/Educational%20policy%20guidance%20and%20templates/Discipline%20%20Restraint%20Policy%20V%202%20May%202014.doc>

The above policy should be adhered to at all times.

The appendix, below, has some further guidance concerning the appropriate use of physical restraint, but does not form part of the policy.

Appendix

Circumstances where physical restraint may be justified

- Physical restraint should only be used as a last resort; other non-physical strategies for diffusing the situation must be tried first.
- Whenever possible, the age, level of understanding and gender of the student should be considered.
- The governing body appreciates that in some instances (such as stopping a student who is running down a corridor) staff may have to act quickly, and without having the time to consider all the circumstances.

Restraint is **NOT** a punishment and must not be used as such.

Guidance: During an incident

ASSISTANCE should be sought whenever possible. The student(s) should be told that this has been done. Remove any other students who are at risk. Avoid the use of restraint in a one-to-one situation, witnesses are important.

The method of restraint must use the minimum force for the minimum time and must observe the following requirements:

Staff at DLD are expected to:

- be aware that even appropriate physical restraint may be misconstrued by the student, an observer or by anyone to whom this action is described;
- always be prepared to explain actions and accept that all physical contact is open to scrutiny;
- ensure that all incidents of physical restraint are reported to the Principal during the college day and to the Assistant Principal Boarding during out of college teaching hours.
- Details of the incident must be written down and sent to the Principal and, for a boarder, the Assistant Principal Boarding.

Under no circumstances should physical force be used as a form of punishment.

The use of unwarranted physical force is likely to constitute a criminal offence.

Staff at DLD must:

- adhere to Alpha Plus's Discipline and Restraint Policy
- always seek to defuse situations; and
- always use minimum force for the shortest period necessary.
- take account of the college's Equal Opportunities Policy and SEND Policy.

Monitoring and Review

The Principal will ensure that a recording and reporting system is in place and is maintained. The Principal will also ensure that the Vice Principal (Pastoral) reports incidents to the ELT and will report incidents and outcomes to the Governing Body.