# Restrictive Intervention Policy

**Approval Date: September 2026**

**Review Date: September 2027**

**Headteacher: ……**

## *1. Purpose*

At our school, we aim to keep all pupils and staff safe. We work hard to prevent difficult situations by supporting children early and helping them manage their emotions. We always aim to keep children safe using calm, supportive approaches. Restrictive interventions are only used when absolutely necessary and always in the safest and most respectful way.

Sometimes, however, we may need to use a *restrictive intervention* (such as reasonable force or guiding a child away) to prevent harm. This policy explains when and how this can be done safely, appropriately, and legally.

## *2. Our Approach*

We always aim to:

- Prevent problems before they happen
- Use calm and supportive strategies to reduce upset (de-escalation)
- Build positive relationships with pupils
- Respect every child's dignity and wellbeing

At Three Bridges Primary school, restrictive interventions are **only used as a last resort**.

## *3. What Are Restrictive Interventions?*

Restrictive interventions are actions used to:

- Stop a child from hurting themselves or others
- Stop serious damage to property
- Prevent serious disruption

This may include:

- **Reasonable force** – using the least force needed for the shortest time
- **Restraint** – limiting movement if necessary
- **Seclusion** – keeping a child in a safe space away from others (only in serious situations)

## *4. When Can Staff Use Reasonable Force?*

All school staff can use reasonable force if necessary to:

- Prevent injury
- Stop a crime
- Prevent serious damage
- Maintain safety and order

Staff will always:

- Use the **least amount of force needed**
- Stop as soon as the situation is safe
- Act in the best interests of the child

### *5. What We Do Not Allow*

- Force must **never be used as punishment**
- Staff must not use any action that affects breathing or causes harm
- Unsafe or excessive force is not acceptable

### *6. Positive Physical Contact*

Not all physical contact is restrictive. Appropriate contact may include:

- Comforting a child
- Giving first aid
- Guiding or supporting movement
- Praise (e.g. a pat on the back)

Staff must always use their professional judgement or seek advice if they do not know what action to take.

### *7. Seclusion*

Seclusion may only be used:

- To prevent harm when a child is very distressed
- In a safe, supervised space
- For the shortest time possible

It is **not a punishment**.

### *8. Supporting Pupils (Including SEND)*

We recognise that some pupils, especially those with SEND, may need extra support.

We will:

- Identify triggers for behaviour
- Use personalised strategies and support plans
- Work closely with parents and other professionals
- Make reasonable adjustments where needed

### *9. After an Incident*

After any use of restrictive intervention:

- The incident is recorded the same day
- Parents are informed as soon as possible
- Support is given to pupils and staff
- Staff review what happened to prevent future incidents

### *10. Recording and Reporting*

At Three Bridges Primary, staff must record key details, including:

- Who was involved
- What happened and why
- What actions were taken
- Any injuries or follow-up support

Parents will be informed, usually on the same day.

### *11. Staff Training and Safety*

- Staff receive training in behaviour support and safe intervention
- Risk assessments are in place where needed
- Staff wellbeing is supported

### *12. Monitoring and Review*

School leaders regularly review incidents to:

- Improve practice
- Identify patterns or concerns
- Ensure fair and appropriate use

### *13. Complaints*

Any concerns about the use of restrictive interventions will be handled through the school's complaints procedure.

This policy refers to the Department for Education's Guidance for schools document: Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools, April 2026 - Use of reasonable force and other restrictive interventions guidance

Previous Positive Handling policy approved March 2018. Reviewed and rewritten May 2026.
**Risk assessment and Positive Handling plan \\ThreeBridges.local\ThreeBridges-DFS\School Data\FolderRedirection\Head\Downloads\Risk assessment and Positive Handling Plan.docx**
**Parent meeting form \\ThreeBridges.local\ThreeBridges-DFS\School Data\FolderRedirection\Head\Downloads\Parent_Meeting_Record.docx**