



Reasonable Force Policy

Ratification Date: 5/09/23

Signed: Diane Robinson/Tracey Lecointe

Review Date: 5/09/25

New Bridge Alternative Education has a Behaviour Policy that can be found the policy section of our website which links directly to the Behaviour Policy.

New Bridge would contact parents if any reasonable force has been used where a member of staff has had to physically intervene with a student.

New Bridge Alternative Education acknowledges its legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for students with SEND.

New Bridge Alternative Education staff will only use the parameters of this policy in exceptional circumstances.

Staff Training

Staff receive guidance on using and implementing the schools Behaviour Policy. It is made clear to staff that reasonable force is only used if all other options have been used or are not available. Some staff may have specific training on De-Escalation of situations to avoid the use of reasonable force.

Staff not trained in restraint; however, three forms of restraint would be permitted;

Using force

- A panel of experts⁴ identified that certain restraint techniques presented an unacceptable risk when used on children and young people. The techniques in question are:
- the 'seated double embrace' which involves two members of staff forcing a person into a sitting position and leaning them forward, while a third monitors breathing;
- the 'double basket-hold' which involves holding a person's arms across their chest; and
- the 'nose distraction technique' which involves a sharp upward jab under the nose.

Informing Parents/Carers

If a member of staff at New Bridge Alternative Education had to use reasonable force, parents/carers would be notified of the situation. This would involve a senior member of staff calling the parents to discuss the incident. It is likely that the member of staff would discuss:

- Why reasonable force was used
- What were the risk at the time of the incident
- The type of reasonable force used (for example a restraint)
- The effect on the student and member of staff involved.

Complaints

Any complain in relation to the use of reasonable force would be investigated as per our Complaints Policy which can be found on the website.

Any member of staff using reasonable force would not be automatically suspended. New Bridge Alternative Education will look into to the complaint to determine if the member of staff acted lawfully.

Further support on this can be found in the DfE document “Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff”.

Physical Contact with students

It is not illegal to touch a student. There are instances when physical contact (other than the use of reasonable force) are proper and necessary. These could include;

- Comforting a distressed student
- Praising a student (a pat on the back/handshake)
- To demonstrate activities in PE/Performing Arts
- To administer first aid.

This is not an exhaustive list.

Further Information

- 1.1. This policy has been developed from the DfE Guidance document “Use of reasonable force” July 2013

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444051/Use of reasonable force advice Reviewed July 2015.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444051/Use_of_reasonable_force_advice_Reviewed_July_2015.pdf)

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