



Restrictive Interventions Policy (incorporating Reasonable Force)

Created: Spring 2026

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy outlines the legal framework for using **restrictive interventions**, including reasonable force, at St Peter's. It prioritizes de-escalation and the safety, dignity, and rights of all pupils.

2. Core Principles

- **Last Resort:** Restrictive intervention is only used when all preventative and de-escalation strategies have failed.
- **Minimum Force:** Staff must use the least restrictive intervention for the shortest time necessary.
- **Proportionality:** Any force must be justified, necessary, and proportionate to the risk.
- **No Seclusion:** St Peter's does not use seclusion (forcing a pupil to spend time alone in a room they cannot leave). Seclusion is explicitly prohibited as a punishment.

3. Circumstances for Use

Staff may use reasonable force only to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing a **criminal offence**.
- Causing **harm** to themselves or others.
- Causing **significant damage** to property.
- Prejudicing **good order and discipline**.

4. SEND and Reasonable Adjustments

The Governing Board ensures that:

- **Reasonable adjustments** are embedded for pupils with SEND to prevent the disproportionate use of intervention.
- Interventions consider a pupil's specific needs, disabilities, or medical conditions.
- Incident data is monitored to ensure **equity** for all pupils.

5. De-escalation and Prevention

Staff are trained in **behavioural techniques** (e.g., front loading, positive framing, declarative statements, verbal redirection, diversion, and space) to reduce the need for physical intervention.

6. Recording and Reporting (Legal Requirement)

All significant incidents involving reasonable force **must** be recorded and reported.

- **Recording:** Documentation must include the names of those involved, the justification, de-escalation steps taken, the nature of the force used, and the outcome.
- **Reporting:** It is a legal requirement to inform parents/carers of any incident involving restrictive intervention or reasonable force.

CPOMS Recording Guide: Standardised Prompts

To ensure legal compliance, staff must answer the following prompts within the CPOMS incident log:

1. **Justification:** Which specific risk was being prevented? (Harm to self/others, criminal offence, or significant property damage).
2. **De-escalation:** Which specific strategies were attempted *before* physical intervention? (e.g., verbal redirection, change of space, use of "First/Then").
3. **Nature of Intervention:** Describe the specific hold or physical guide used (e.g., "Two-person guided walk using arm/shoulder contact").
4. **Duration:** For how long was the restrictive intervention applied?
5. **SEND Considerations:** Were the pupil's specific SEND needs/Profile adjustments followed?
6. **Parental Notification:** Confirm the time and method (phone/in-person) by which the parent was informed of the force used.
7. **Post-Incident Support:** Describe the "Repair and Rebuild" work completed with the pupil.

7. Prohibited Practices

Staff must never:

- Act in anger.
- Use force as a punishment.
- Restrict breathing or hold a pupil around the neck.
- Use holds that cause pain or involve the face, hair, or ears.

8. Governance and Oversight

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- **Approving and reviewing** this policy annually.
- **Monitoring incident data** to identify patterns, inform training needs, and ensure compliance.
- Ensuring staff receive appropriate training in **safe interventions**.