

ALYWN INFANT SCHOOL
BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT APPENDIX 2 – USE OF REASONABLE FORCE

All members of school staff have the legal power to use reasonable force, and the use of the power will provide a defense to any related criminal proceedings or other legal action¹. Members of school staff will be supported by senior school leaders in the use of this power.

The school does not require parental consent to use reasonable force; however, reasonable force can never be used as punishment. The use of force as a form of punishment is illegal.

Reasonable force constitutes a broad range of actions, but usually involves control or restraint. 'Reasonable' means using no more force than is necessarily required.

The use of reasonable force is always a question of professional judgment and depends on the individual circumstances of the case; however, examples of where reasonable force may be required include:

- removing disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- preventing a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- preventing 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;
- preventing a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and
- restraining a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

In exercising reasonable force, all staff must comply with their legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for children with disabilities and special educational needs.

Serious incidents using reasonable force

Any serious incident involving reasonable force will be reported to the Headteacher and a written report completed.

The use of reasonable force will be reported to the parents/guardian of child by the Headteacher.

¹ Section 93, Education and Inspections Act 2006

Allegations of using excessive force

All allegations of excessive force will be thoroughly, speedily and appropriately investigated.

When a complaint is made, the onus is on the complainant to prove it is true, it is not for the member of staff to prove they acted reasonably.

Suspension should not be considered an automatic response where a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force.

Any staff accused of the use of excessive force will be provided with appropriate pastoral support by the School.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Department of Education's Guidance of the Use of Reasonable Force in Schools. July 2013 (to be reviewed May 2015).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>