

# NTSSS Care and Control Policy

**Awaiting Ratification**  
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Signed (by or on behalf of Governing Body)	J McCarty
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# CARE AND CONTROL POLICY

## INTRODUCTION

This policy has been prepared for the support of all teaching, and support staff who come into contact with pupils within Moorbridge PRU/NTSSS . It is designed to explain the PRU's arrangements for care and control. Its contents should be made available to all parents and pupils.

This policy should be read in tandem with Moorbridge PRU/NTSSS PRU behaviour policies.

This policy was updated after staff discussion in Moorbridge PRU/NTSSS and accepted by the Management Committee in January 2020. The responsible person for the implementation and review of this policy is the Headteacher. Training for all staff is provided annually at staff meetings. It is updated every two years.

***Notwithstanding National Guidelines our use of Care and Control is only used as a last resort to prevent injury or severe damage and we will always look for reasons behind the behaviour and employ intuitive trauma informed practice to de-escalate the situation.***

## PURPOSE

Good personal and professional relationships between staff and pupils are vital to ensure good order in our school. It is recognised that the majority of pupils in our school respond positively to the discipline and control practised by staff. This ensures the well-being and safety of all pupils and staff in the school. It is also acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, staff may need to take action in situations where the use of positive physical intervention may be required.

This policy seeks to ensure that staff in Moorbridge PRU/NTSSS clearly understand their responsibilities in taking appropriate measures where positive physical intervention is required. It is essential that staff are well-informed and appropriately trained to deal with these difficult situations and understand fully the rationale and implications of the guidance - This policy has been written using advice taken from Use of Reasonable Force, Advice for Headteachers, staff and Governing Bodies DfE 2013

This policy should also be explained to pupils and made available to parents on request.

The school acknowledges its legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEND). Equality Act 2010, SEN and Disability Code of Practice 0-25 years 2014

**For the Purposes of this Policy Document:**

- Care and Control/reasonable force is defined as using no more force than is needed in the circumstances
- Care and Control/reasonable force is defined as the positive application of force in order to protect/prevent a pupil from causing injury to themselves or others or seriously damaging property. It is necessary in more extreme cases, for example to stop a physical fight.
- Injury means 'significant injury'; this would include actual or grievous bodily harm, physical or sexual abuse, risking the lives of, or injury to, themselves or others, by wilful or reckless behaviour, and self-poisoning.

Whilst it is recognised that there are situations in which appropriate physical contact occurs in the school's setting between staff and pupils, it must be understood that to undertake any form of physical control places staff in a vulnerable situation. It can only be justified according to those circumstances described in this policy. Staff therefore have a responsibility to seek alternative strategies, wherever possible, in order to prevent the need for physical intervention.

### **The Principles of Care and Control/ Reasonable force**

All staff working in Moorbridge PRU/NTSSS have a right to:

- be treated with respect and dignity;
- work in a safe and health environment;
- be protected from harm;
- receive adequate information and training.

All pupils attending The Moorbridge PRU/NTSSS and their parents have a right to:

- consideration of their needs by staff who have responsibility for their care;
- expect staff to undertake their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the school's policies;
- be informed about the school's rules, policies and expected conduct for all;
- be provided with high quality of education in an environment where they are protected from harm;
- be informed of the school's complaints procedure.

### **Who can use Care and Control/Reasonable force?**

- All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force
- This power applies to any member of staff at the school.
- It can also apply to people whom the Head has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying students on a school organised visit.
- The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

### **When can Care and Control/Reasonable force be used?**

Care and Control/Reasonable force can be used

- to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.
- to control pupils or to restrain them.
- to remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- to prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- to prevent 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;
- to prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground
- to restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts

### **When can Care and Control/Reasonable Force NOT be used?**

Reasonable Force may **never** be used as a form of punishment.

### **Guidelines for the Use of Care and Control/Reasonable Force**

Professional judgement should be used in circumstances where the use of physical Care and Control/Reasonable Force is needed.

- Staff should not hesitate to act in an emergency provided they follow the guidelines in this policy.
- Staff should always satisfy themselves that the action they take would be considered justifiable by a wider audience of professional colleagues.
- In any application of Care and Control/Reasonable Force, the minimum reasonable force should be used to calm down the situation.
- Help should be summoned from colleagues; pupils should never be involved in restraint.

### **What to do in circumstances when the use of Care and Control/Reasonable Force is needed**

- Approach the pupil calmly but firmly.
- Where possible, the consequences of refusing to stop the behaviour should be explained and it should be communicated to the pupil that physical contact or restraint will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary.
- A calm and measured approach is required by staff throughout.

### **Method of Care and Control/Reasonable Force**

The method of Care and Control/Reasonable Force employed must use the minimum force for the minimum time and must observe the following:

Care and Control/Reasonable Force *must not*:

- Involve hurting the pupil
- Involve deliberately inflicting pain on the pupil
- Restrict the pupil's breathing
- Involve contact with sexually sensitive areas
- Involve locking the pupil in a room

*During any incident the person using Care and Control/Reasonable Force should:*

- Offer verbal reassurance to the pupil
- Cause the minimum level of restriction of movement
- Reduce the danger of any accidental injury
- Cease the restraint if there are any signs of physical distress in the pupil such as sudden change in colour, difficulty breathing or vomiting

Care and Control/Reasonable Force *can be*:

- Partial – restricting and preventing particular movements
- Total – as in the case of immobilisation

Care and Control/Reasonable Force *can take several forms and may involve staff:*

- Physically interposing between pupils
- Blocking a pupil's path
- Holding
- Pushing
- Pulling
- Guiding/Leading a pupil by the hand or arm
- Shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back or in extreme circumstances using more restrictive holds

*Do:*

- Ensure a free passage of air through airways
- Be aware of any feelings of anger
- Continue to talk to the pupil in a calm way
- Provide a soft surface if possible
- Be aware of any accessories worn by you or the pupil that could cause injury
- Monitor the pupil's respiration, circulation and state of consciousness

*Don't:*

- Try to manage on your own
- Stop talking, even if the pupil does not reply
- Straddle the pupil
- Push their arms up their back
- Touch the pupil near the throat or head
- Put pressure on joints or on arterial pressure points (inside of upper arm, groin, neck)

- Use facedown holds

### **Recording Incidents**

All incidents should be recorded in CPOMS.

All more serious incidents involving the use of physical restraint must be reported to the Head and the Deputy Heads as soon as possible after the incident. These must be also recorded on CPOMS and noted in the incident log held by the Behaviour Manager.

### **Telling parents when force has been used on their child**

- Staff must inform a parent when an incident has occurred,
- In a serious incident where a member of staff has had to implement Care and Control/Reasonable Force *on* a pupil, the parent will be informed on the day and the conversation must be followed up in writing to the parent.

### **What happens if a pupil complains when force is used on them?**

- All complaints about the use of force should be thoroughly, speedily and appropriately investigated.
- Where a member of staff has acted within the law – that is, they have used reasonable force in order to prevent injury, damage to property or disorder – this will provide a defence to any criminal prosecution or other civil or public law action.
- When a complaint is made the onus is on the person making the complaint to prove that his/her allegations are true – it is not for the member of staff to show that he/she has acted reasonably.
- If an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff, the procedures set out in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will be followed.

### **Authorised Staff**

All teaching and support staff at Moorbridge PRU/NTSSS are authorised, within the context of this Policy and the legal position indicated above, to use Care and Control/Reasonable Force to control pupils

### **Staff Injury**

Report all injuries to Hazel Johnson Office Manager