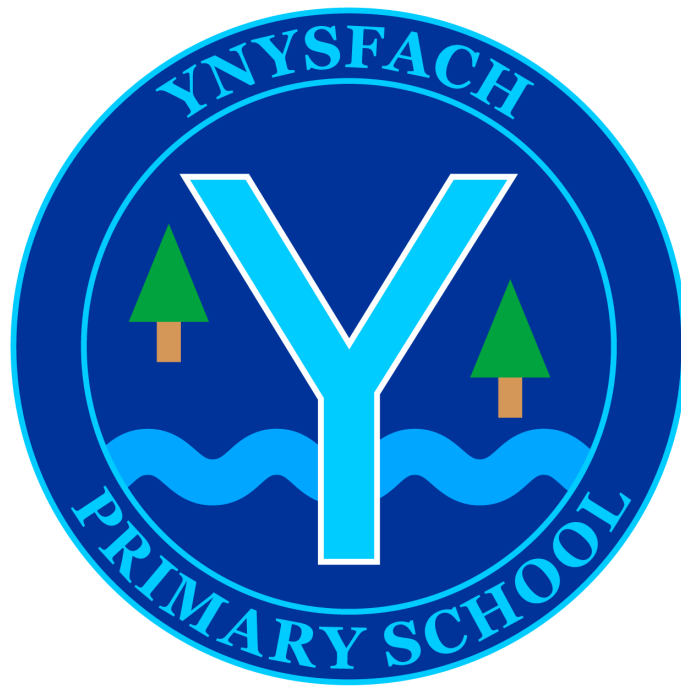


Ynysfach Primary School



Restraint Policy

Autumn 2025



Ynysfach Primary School Restraint Policy

INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out the way in which we would employ restraint at Ynysfach Primary School. It should be read in conjunction with the Positive Handling Policy. It sets out the circumstances in which physical intervention might be appropriate and discusses the meaning of “reasonable force”. It adheres to Education and Inspections Act 2006 section 93, and complies with the LA guidelines.

WHEN TO USE FORCE OR RESTRAINT

Teachers and other authorised staff have always been able to use restraint or force in emergencies or in self defence. The purpose of Education and Inspections Act 2006 section 93 is to make it clear that teachers, and other authorised staff, are also entitled to intervene in other, less extreme, situations. At Ynysfach Primary School we consider that it would be appropriate to use force as a last resort in the following situations:

- Teachers and other authorised staff can use such force as is reasonable in all the following circumstances to prevent a pupil from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:
- committing a criminal offence (including behaving in a way that would be an offence if the pupil were not under the age of criminal responsibility);
- injuring themselves or others;
- causing damage to property (including the pupil's own property);
- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in a classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere.

The provision applies when a teacher, or other authorised person, is on the school premises, and when he or she has lawful control or charge of the pupil concerned elsewhere e.g. on a field trip or other authorised out of school activity.

TYPES OF INCIDENTS

There are a wide variety of situations in which *reasonable* force might be appropriate, or necessary, to control or restrain a pupil. They will fall into three broad categories:

- where action is necessary in self-defense or because there is an imminent risk of injury.
- where there is a developing risk of injury, or significant damage to property;
- where a pupil is behaving in a way that is compromising good order and discipline.

Examples of situations that fall within these categories are:

- a pupil attacks a member of staff, or another pupil;

- pupils are fighting;
- a pupil is engaged in, or is on the verge of committing, deliberate damage or vandalism to property;
- a pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects;
- a pupil is running in a corridor in a way in which he or she might have or cause an accident likely to injure him or herself or others;
- a pupil absconds from a class or tries to leave school (N.B. this will only apply if a pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or at school).
- a pupil persistently refuses to obey an order to leave a classroom and their behavior is seriously disrupting a lesson;
- a pupil is refusing to follow an instruction and cannot be supervised if they continue to do so. For example, refusing to go onto the playground, into assembly etc.

REASONABLE FORCE

There is no legal definition of 'reasonable force'. So, it is not possible to set out comprehensively when it is reasonable to use force, or the degree of force that may reasonably be used. It will always depend on all the circumstances of the case. There are two relevant considerations:

- 1) the use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of the incident warrant it. The use of any degree of force is unlawful if the circumstances do not warrant the use of physical force. Therefore, physical force could not be justified to prevent a pupil from committing a trivial misdemeanor, or in a situation that clearly could be resolved without force.
- 2) the degree of force employed must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or the consequences it is intended to prevent. Any force used should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

APPLICATION OF FORCE

Physical intervention can take several forms. It might involve staff doing the following:

- physically interposing between pupils;
- blocking a pupil's path
- holding;
- pushing;
- pulling;
- 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.

In exceptional circumstances, where there is an immediate risk of injury, a member of staff may need to take any necessary action that is consistent with the concept of 'reasonable force', for example to prevent a young pupil running off a pavement onto a busy road, or to prevent a pupil hitting someone, or throwing something, physically interposing between pupils;

Where the risk is not so urgent the teacher should consider carefully if and when physical intervention is right. Teachers should always try to deal with a situation through other strategies before using force. The majority of teachers at Ynysfach Primary School have had training in other strategies and techniques for dealing with difficult pupils and situations, which they should use to defuse and calm a situation. In a non-urgent situation force should only be used when other methods have failed. Physical intervention to enforce compliance with staff instructions should never be used as a substitute for good behavioural management.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Before intervening physically a teacher should, wherever practicable, tell the pupil who is misbehaving to stop, and what will happen if he or she does not. The teacher should continue attempting to communicate with the pupil throughout the incident, and should make it clear that physical contact or restraint will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary. A calm and measured approach to a situation is needed and teachers should never give the impression that they have lost their temper, or are acting out of anger or frustration, or to punish the pupil.

RECORDING INCIDENTS

It is important that there is a detailed, written report of any occasion (except minor or trivial incidents) where restraint or force is used. It may help prevent any misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the incident, and it will be helpful should there be a complaint. Immediately following any such incident the member of staff concerned should tell the Head or a senior member of staff and write up the incident on 'My Concern'. Parents should also be informed.

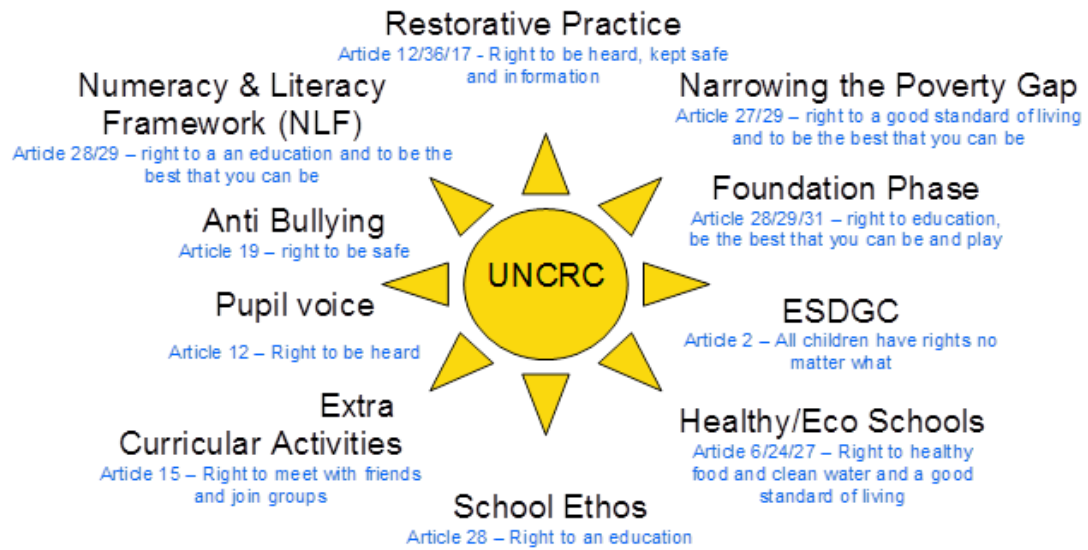
AUTHORISED STAFF

The Act allows all teachers to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils. It also allows other people to do so, in the same way as teachers, if authorised by the Head teacher.

At Ynysfach Primary School teachers and TAs are authorised to use physical restraint but must follow the guidelines in this policy and should only do so in the event of an emergency or in self defence. It is our belief that all staff have a right to act in these situations. Everyone has the right to defend themselves against an attack provided they do not use a disproportionate degree of force to do so. Similarly, in an emergency, if a pupil was at immediate risk of injury or on the point of inflicting injury on someone else, any member of staff would be entitled to intervene.

In less immediate situations the senior management team should be summoned to deal with difficult situations. Sometimes a teacher or senior manager might need to request the help of other members of staff when dealing with an incident e.g. a physically large pupil, or an incident with more than one child. In this circumstance the other member would be deemed authorised. However, do not try to assist a senior teacher if they have not asked you and always listen to their instructions.

Ynysfach Primary School is a Rights Respecting School



Signed: (Chair of Governors)

Date: Sept 2025