

This appendix forms part of the school's Behaviour Policy and reflects updates to statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE). It should be read in conjunction with the main policy.

Definitions When read or used in relation to this document and/or the DfE statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, and pupil referral units in England, the following definitions will be adopted by Crofty Education Trust and all Crofty schools.	
Headteacher	Shall relate to the Headteacher, Executive Headteacher, and/or Head of School
Governors/Trust Board	Shall relate to the Board of Trustees, and the Crofty Local Governance Committees (LGC)
Parent	The definition of a 'parent' can be found in the Education Act 1996, and this applies to all the legislation to which this guidance relates. In addition to the child's birth parents, references to parents in this guidance include any person who has parental responsibility (which includes the local authority where it has a care order in respect of the child) and any person (for example, a foster carer) who has care of the child. To reflect this, this guidance uses 'parent' to refer to both parents and carers.

Banned Items and Searches In line with DfE guidance (Searching, Screening and Confiscation, 2022), authorised staff may search a pupil or their belongings where reasonable grounds exist. Searches will always be conducted respectfully, with a second member of staff present, and, whenever possible, searches will take place away from other children. Staff will never ask a pupil to remove clothing beyond outer clothing. Outer clothing means clothing that does not expose underwear or skin. Parents will be informed as soon as practicable of searches conducted, and any safeguarding concerns identified will be managed according to school safeguarding procedures and may involve external agencies where appropriate. Any prohibited or banned items found will be confiscated and dealt with in line with statutory guidance and the school's behaviour and safeguarding policies.
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Restrictive Interventions including use of reasonable force, in schools April 2026

Restrictive Interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools - April 2026

The DfE's Restrictive Interventions Guidance (April 2026) makes the recording and reporting of the use of reasonable force and seclusion a statutory duty for schools.

1. Definitions and Legal Framework

Restrictive intervention

A means to prevent, restrict, or subdue the movement of the body, or part of the body, of a pupil. This guidance uses *restrictive interventions* as the umbrella term to describe both physical and non-physical actions intended to restrict movement.

Reasonable force

A term used in legislation which includes physical restrictive interventions. All members of staff have the legal power to use reasonable force in limited circumstances. Reasonable means using no more force than is necessary for the least amount of time, the application of which will depend on the circumstances.

Staff may use reasonable force to prevent or stop a pupil from:

- causing injury to themselves or others
- committing a criminal offence
- damaging property
- causing disorder within the school

Seclusion

A non-disciplinary intervention involving keeping a pupil in a place away from others and prevented from leaving by physical obstruction, blocking, or fear of consequence. It must only be used as a safety measure to protect others from harm when a pupil is experiencing high levels of emotional or behavioural dysregulation. In such circumstances, the pupil is not acting with intent. The place to which the pupil is confined must be safe and not feel threatening or intimidating. The pupil must be supervised at all times during the period of seclusion, and as soon as the pupil's behaviour has reduced, the pupil should be permitted to leave. Seclusion will never be implemented as a punishment.

2. Positive Handling and Safe Touch

In line with the Trust's Safe Touch Policy, positive handling refers to the appropriate use of physical contact to support, guide, comfort or protect a child. In certain circumstances, this may include the lawful use of reasonable force.

Staff may need to use safe touch or restrictive physical interventions to keep children safe, for example when a child is at risk of harming themselves or others, damaging property, committing an offence, or causing serious disorder. Any use of restrictive physical intervention will always be a last resort.

Positive handling and physical restrictive interventions, including Team Teach techniques, will:

- involve the minimum level of intervention for the shortest period of time
- maintain the dignity and safety of all involved
- avoid any action that could place a child at medical risk

Positive handling and physical techniques are not risk free. There is a possibility that accidental bruising, scratch marks or other injuries may occur when a physical intervention is used. Any injuries will be recorded and managed through the school's safeguarding and reporting processes.

Staff understand that some children may need to regulate in calm, supervised spaces. Where seclusion is necessary, it must be brief, for safety or that of others. This is only ever a short-term safety measure and is never used as punishment. Any use of seclusion will follow DfE Restrictive Interventions Guidance (April 2026) and relevant expectations within Behaviour in Schools (February 2024) only, supervised at all times, and never used as punishment.

3. Unacceptable Uses of Force

The DfE guidance explicitly prohibits certain practices. Staff must not:

- use force as a form of punishment
- restrain a pupil in any way that affects airway, breathing, or circulation (e.g., pressure on the neck, covering the mouth/nose, pressure on the abdomen)
- deliberately hold a pupil on the ground; if a pupil ends up on the ground, they must be released or repositioned immediately
- use techniques that inflict pain or risk of asphyxia

Restraint may also occur without direct physical contact, for example, where a pupil's movement is restricted through environmental means or by removing an aid (such as a walking aid) to prevent harm. These must still be treated as restrictive interventions and recorded.

4. Recording Requirements

All incidents of restrictive intervention involving reasonable force or seclusion will be recorded on CPOMS, with positive handling incidents also recorded in the school's logbook, and follow the DfE's statutory guidance for recording.

The governing body receives regular reports and will interrogate trends and patterns.

5. Reporting to Parents

The school will inform parents as soon as practicable, ideally on the same day.

The information shared will include:

- the reason the intervention was necessary
- the type of intervention
- the duration of the intervention

- any injuries sustained by the pupil or staff

Exceptions (statutory) for reporting to parents when:

- the pupil is aged 20 or over, or
- reporting would likely result in serious harm to the pupil. In such cases, the local authority must be notified.

6. Post-Incident Review and Support

Following any incident:

- A restorative or reflective conversation will take place with the child and relevant staff. Where possible, this should be led by a staff member not involved in the incident.
- The school will consider medical needs and whether adjustments to behaviour support plans or risk assessments are needed.
- Pupils who witnessed the incident will also be offered appropriate support.
- A meeting with parents and the child, if deemed necessary.

The school and Trust recognise that pupils with SEND may have additional vulnerabilities. The school takes an evidence-based and preventative approach to behaviour and safeguarding.

Physical intervention will never replace appropriate support.

Mobile Phones and Connect Technology

We recognise that, in preparation for the transition to secondary school, some parents may wish their older primary-aged child to bring a mobile phone to school so they can be contacted at the end of the day, particularly if the child is beginning to walk home independently. In line with the Department for Education's *Mobile Phones in Schools* guidance (January 2026), children may only bring a mobile phone (or other smart or connected devices with similar functionality, such as smart watches, trackers or AirTags) to school in circumstances agreed in advance with the headteacher. Where permission is granted, phones and devices must be handed in at the start of the school day and returned as the child leaves. Mobile phones and devices must not be used during the school day under any circumstances. The headteacher holds the final decision as to whether a child is permitted to bring a phone or device to school. The school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage.