Chelmsford County High School for Girls

Restraint of Pupils Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: ~~November 2020~~

CHELMSFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Restraint of Pupils Policy

These provisions are contained in the Education Act 1997 which came into force on 1st April 1998 to clarify the position regarding the legitimate use of physical force by inserting a new section 550A in the Education Act 1996 entitled:

1. A member of the staff may use, in relation to any student at the school **such force as is reasonable in the circumstances** for the purpose of preventing the student from doing (or continuing to do) any of the following:
   - committing any offence
   - causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student herself) ; or
   - engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any of its students, whether behaviour occurs during a teaching session or otherwise.

2. This applies where a member of the School staff is:
   - on the premises of the School; or
   - elsewhere at a time when as a member of its staff has lawful control or charge of the student concerned.

The use of corporal punishment is, of course, excepted from these provisions.

3. The degree of force should be in proportion to the circumstances and seriousness of the behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent. The level and duration of the force used should be **the minimum necessary to achieve the desired result**, such as to restore safety.

4. In some circumstances, it will, of course, be inadvisable for a teacher to intervene without help, such as where a number of students are involved; where the student is older and physically mature, and where the teacher might be at risk of injury.

5. In all circumstances, if a teacher intervenes to restrain a child, **it is better to find a second responsible adult to assist or to witness,** however, a teacher could be held to be negligent if (s)he did not intervene to stop an injury, because there was no adult help nearby.

6. What to do in circumstances when the use of physical restraint and 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.

7. All use of restraint should be reported immediately after the incident as the School will keep a record of all incidents of restraint. If there was any injury, the incident was in any way "hazardous", or put a teacher or other member of the School community at risk, an ordinary accident form should be completed as well.

8. Staff are reminded that violent behaviour is a criminal act and the police can be called where students are out of control and need restraining physically, or where a student is not obeying a lawful instruction (such as to leave the premises when excluded).