



Schools for Every Child

Use of reasonable force & touch

We are an education Trust that is committed to running dynamic, ever-improving schools. We work to make sure that every child feels they belong in their school where they feel safe and inspired by learning. For us, learning is an adventure. It is a privilege and a responsibility for all who work with us to ensure that the journey through school is exciting, challenging, caring and enriching, and that every child experiences joy, wonder, calm and success.

Approval Level	CEO
Author	
Approval Date	September 2023
Trust/Template/School level	Trust
Review cycle	Biannual

"The purpose of governance is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance". (DfE)

Approval History

Committee Approval	Status	Next Review Date
N/A	Review in progress Live Policy	September 2025

Use of Reasonable Force & Touch

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444051/Use_of_reasonable_force_advice_Reviewed_July_2015.pdf

Schools for Every Child acknowledges the: Use of reasonable force Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies published in July 2013

This is non-statutory advice from the Department for Education.

It is intended to provide clarification on the use of force to help school staff feel more confident about using this power when they feel it is necessary and to make clear the responsibilities of headteachers and governing bodies in respect of this power.

Key points

- School staff have a power to use force and lawful use of the power will provide a defence to any related criminal prosecution or other legal action.
- Suspension should not be an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force.
- Senior school leaders should support their staff when they use this power.

Safe Touch Statement

At Schools for Every Child we believe that used in context and with empathy, touch supports the development of natural human interactions. We also believe that it can be key to developing fundamental social, behavioural and attention skills. We recognize that whilst for some pupils, physical support may be essential for their development, for others it may not. At Schools for Every Child, touch must only occur if it is in the pupil's best interest. We believe that pupils must be able to differentiate the attachment that is appropriate for them to form with staff and the attachment that they share with their parents or siblings. Therefore, touch used by staff must never encourage or promote intimacy between the staff member and the pupil. At Schools for Every Child we recognize that some pupils show discomfort or dislike of being touched and ensure that these feelings are respected and in these cases, touch does not occur.