

LANSDOWNE TURNEY FEDERATION

Restrictive Interventions Policy (including reasonable force and seclusion)



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1. Aims and scope

At Turney School we strive to create a safe, secure and supportive environment for all our pupils and staff.

There are times when the use of restrictive interventions, including reasonable force and seclusion, is lawful and necessary to keep people safe. However, we understand that the use of restrictive interventions can have a significant impact on pupils, staff and parents/carers. In our school, they are only ever considered as a last resort, once all other prevention and de-escalation strategies have been exhausted.

This policy aims to:

- Minimise the need to use restrictive interventions, through early support, prevention and de-escalation strategies
- Help school staff feel confident in knowing how to use restrictive interventions safely, appropriately and lawfully, when they are necessary
- Clearly set out the steps for recording and reporting incidents of reasonable force, seclusion and restraint
- Protect the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all pupils and staff, and help create a positive and safe place for everyone at school

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education (DfE) [guidance on restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools](#). It also meets the requirements of:

- [Section 93 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- Section 93A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, inserted by the [Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009](#)
- [Section 550ZA](#) and [section 550ZB](#) of the Education Act 1996
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](#) and associated regulations
- [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [The Schools \(Recording and Reporting of Seclusion and Restraint\) \(No. 2\) \(England\) Regulations 2025](#)
- Department for Education guidance on [searching, screening and confiscation](#)

3. Definitions

The terms we use in this policy are defined as follows. These definitions are based on the Department for Education's guidance on restrictive interventions (linked to in section 2 of this policy).

- **Restrictive interventions** are used to prevent, restrict or subdue movement of the body or part of the body. This policy uses 'restrictive interventions' as the umbrella term to describe both physical and non-physical actions aimed to restrain pupils in different ways.

Examples of restrictive interventions could include:

- Supervised seclusion of a pupil in an area away from others, where the pupil is prevented from leaving for their own safety and/or the safety of others
- Passive physical contact, such as a staff member blocking a pupil's path if they're running towards danger (like a busy road), or staff standing between pupils to prevent a fight

- **Reasonable force** refers to the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to restrain children, using no more force than is needed for the least amount of time, the application of which will depend on the circumstances.

Examples of the use of reasonable force could include:

- A staff member guiding a pupil to safety by the arm
- A staff member restraining a pupil to prevent injury to the pupil, or others
- 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
- Prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit
- While de-escalating potentially harmful behaviour, helping a child to transition out of an area after all other support strategies have failed.

- **Restraint** is a form of non-disciplinary intervention which immobilises a pupil or limits their movement. The Federation will only use restraint when there is no realistic alternative. We expect staff to conduct a dynamic risk assessment and choose the safest alternative. It also means that we expect staff to experiment and think creatively about any alternatives to **restrictive interventions** and that aligns with the pupils' individual support strategies. This may or may not include direct physical contact.

Examples could include:

- A staff member holding a pupil's arms to their sides when the pupil is attempting to harm others

- Two members of staff limiting range of movement for a pupil who is trying to repeatedly head-butt against a hard surface.
- **Seclusion** is a non-disciplinary intervention that keeps a pupil confined to a place away from others and prevents them from leaving, for the safety of that pupil and/or others. This could be through physical obstruction or by making the pupil believe that they will be punished if they leave. For example, putting a pupil into a 'holding' room until they calm down is a form of seclusion.

See section 3.2 of this policy for more information on seclusion.

- A **significant incident** is any incident where the use of force goes beyond appropriate physical contact between a member of staff and a pupil. This includes when physical force is used to implement a non-physical restrictive intervention.

See section 3.1 of this policy for more information on appropriate physical contact.

3.1 Appropriate physical contact with pupils

Our school does not have a 'no contact' policy. We do not grant any requests by parents/carers or staff members not to use reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions.

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff to have some physical contact with pupils which does not give rise to any question over the use of reasonable force or other restrictive interventions.

Examples include:

- Providing first aid to a pupil
- Guiding or escorting a pupil through the school building or on a school trip by holding their hand or linking arms
- Comforting a pupil who is upset (i.e. helping them to fix their hair if they are upset about their hairstyle, gently patting their shoulder, supporting them with deep pressure techniques on head and shoulders, etc.)
- Offering congratulations or praise, such as with a pat on the back or handshake
- To demonstrate how to use a musical instrument
- When demonstrating exercises or techniques during PE lessons or sports coaching

In assessing whether physical contact is appropriate in any given situation, staff should use their professional judgement, and have regard to:

- Our school's child protection and safeguarding policy, Behaviour Policy and Intimate Care Policy
- The specific circumstances, such as whether there are other adults present
- Factors including, but not limited to:
 - The pupil's age
 - Any known vulnerabilities, including whether the pupil has special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)
 - Whether any alternative strategies that don't involve physical contact can be used (i.e. communication strategies, facilitating access to sensory regulation equipment, providing with personal space or time to process)

3.2 Seclusion

As defined above, seclusion is a non-disciplinary intervention that keeps a pupil confined to a place away from others and prevents them from leaving, for the safety of that pupil and/or others. This could be through physical obstruction or by making the pupil believe that they will be punished if they leave. For example, putting a pupil into a 'holding' room until they calm down is a form of seclusion.

We only use seclusion as a safety measure when a pupil is experiencing high levels of emotional or behavioural dysregulation. Seclusion is not used as a threat or punishment. Seclusion is not a disciplinary response to deliberate or wilful misbehaviour. Please see our Behaviour Policy for information on our response to misbehaviour.

During seclusion:

- The pupil will be secluded in the nearest safe place that does not feel threatening or intimidating to them, for example: a classroom, a fenced opened area, the playground, the fenced football pen, self-regulation rooms. Please note that given our pupils' limited communication skills, we expect staff to take into account pupils preferences or lived experiences, and where possible, take into account their emotional sense of safety too. For instance, a pupil who is uncomfortable in tight spaces, where possible we will use larger spaces.
- The pupil will be supervised at all times, by at least 1 member of staff
- As soon as the immediate risk of harm has reduced, or staff has enabled for an alternative strategy to be used, the pupil will be allowed to leave. For example, seclusion in the fenced football pen might be used for a few seconds with a student who after dysregulating engaged in harming behaviour towards other pupils. In that case, seclusion will be used to safely manage other pupils to transition to another part of the school and immediately after, the pupil will be allowed to continue to self-regulate with support of a member of staff while free flowing in the playground, not limiting his range of movement and allowing them to engage with other strategies to self-regulate: running, using the trampolines, etc.

Any incident involving the use of seclusion will be recorded and reported in accordance with the procedures set out in section 12 of this policy.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for:

- Reviewing and approving this policy
- Ensuring that a procedure is in place for recording and reporting each:
 - Significant incident involving force
 - Seclusion incident
 - Restraint incident
- Taking all reasonable steps to ensure that the procedures for recording and reporting the use of force, seclusion and restraint are followed
- Regularly reviewing and interrogating data on the use of restrictive interventions in our school
- Supporting and challenging school leaders to identify where changes may be needed to practice. For example:
 - If approaches have been used for some time but haven't been effective
 - If there is any disproportionate use of restrictive interventions, including in relation to pupils who share protected characteristics or have SEND or other types of vulnerabilities

4.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Overall implementation and oversight of this policy

- Making sure that appropriate and high-quality training on preventative strategies and the safe and lawful use of restrictive interventions is provided for staff who need it, based on our school's individual context and needs
- Ensuring adequate staffing levels to support positive behaviour management
- Monitoring incidents involving restrictive interventions, including regular review of incidents to refine and improve processes
- Ensuring compliance with recording and reporting requirements
- Authorising staff to search a pupil or their belongings if they have good reason to think the pupil has a prohibited or banned item
- Following the procedures set out in our complaints policy to deal with any complaint about the use of restrictive interventions
- Following the statutory safeguarding guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) if an allegation regarding inappropriate use of force and/or other restrictive intervention is made against a member of staff

4.3 All staff

All members of staff are responsible for:

- Making sure they have read and understood the principles of this policy and any other linked policies
- Using de-escalation techniques and positive behaviour management strategies to try to minimise and prevent the need for restrictive interventions
- Accurately recording every seclusion incident, restraint incident and significant incident involving force that they are involved in
- Reporting these incidents to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy safeguarding leads (DSL/ deputy DSL)
- Recording any injuries that occur as part of an incident involving restrictive intervention, and following our health and safety policy to ensure these are reported to Corporate Health and Safety Team (Lambeth Council).
- Taking part in training on preventative strategies and the safe and lawful use of restrictive interventions, if relevant to their role (this may include additional training appropriate to their responsibilities)
- Engaging in follow-up conversation(s) to debrief and reflect on incidents involving restrictive intervention that they were involved in, to help us understand what happened and why. For example, with the SENCo to review support strategies, the Headteacher to review other elements from improvements or the DSL to review Risk Assessments.

4.4 Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

The DSL is responsible for:

- Reporting every seclusion incident, restraint incident and significant incident involving force to each parent/carer of the pupil involved
- Making sure records are kept securely and in accordance with safeguarding and data protection procedures
- Contacting the local authority (LADO) in cases where, informing a pupil's parent/carer of the use of reasonable force, seclusion or restraint on their child would put that child at risk of significant harm (see sections 12.2 and 12.3 of this policy)

4.5 Senior Leadership Team (in the context of our SEND school)

The SLT is responsible for:

- Working with pupils, parents/carers and relevant school staff to develop and review behaviour support plans and risk assessments for any pupils with SEND where it's been identified that there is an increased likelihood of the need to use restrictive interventions
- Ensuring staff are aware of individual pupil needs and associated behaviour support strategies
- Working with staff who know pupils well, to identify and manage risk (such as trigger points when challenging behaviour is more likely to occur)
- Working with pupils, parents/carers, staff and other relevant professionals to develop prevention and de-escalation strategies
- Advising on reasonable adjustments for any pupils with disabilities when considering prevention and de-escalation strategies
- Participating in the review of restrictive intervention incidents involving any pupil with SEND
- Providing advice and support on the application of this policy for pupils with SEND
- Contributing to staff training on SEND and behaviour management, including the use of restrictive interventions

5. Acceptable uses of force

All our school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force in certain situations.

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

- Hurting themselves or others
- Committing a criminal offence
- Damaging property
- Causing disorder among pupils, in or out of lessons

While all staff have this power, some staff, especially those who work closely with pupils who might show challenging behaviour, are more likely to need to use it than others.

We will ensure staff are adequately trained and that risk assessments are carried out where necessary. See section 11 of this policy for information on training and risk assessments.

Any significant incident involving the use of force will be recorded and reported in accordance with the procedures set out in section 12 of this policy.

6. Unacceptable use of force

It is illegal to use force on a pupil for the purpose of punishment. We never use force as a sanction, threat or deterrent.

Our staff understand that any form of force or restraint carries a risk of physical and psychological harm, so we always avoid using these measures where possible.

The following uses of force are **never acceptable**:

- Staff using force for the purpose of punishment
- Staff restraining a pupil in a way that affects their airway, breathing or circulation, for example by covering their nose and/or mouth or applying pressure to their neck or abdomen
- Staff using force on the ground. If a pupil is unintentionally held on the ground, staff should release their hold or move into a safer position as quickly as possible

Section 5 of this policy sets out the instances where staff may use reasonable force. Section 9 of this policy provides guidance for staff on what to consider before using it.

In the context of our SEND schools and when working with pupils with limited communication and interaction skills, see our Federation DO NOTs in addition to those above under the *unacceptable use of force*:

DO NOT

- Act in temper (involve another staff member if you fear loss of control).
- Involve yourself in a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil.
- Involve other pupils in the restrictive intervention
- Use force simply to enforce compliance in circumstances where there is no risk.
- Do not use force to remove an item from a pupil to enforce compliance or punishment if this not potentially harmful or life-threatening.

7. Using reasonable force to search pupils

The headteacher and any member of staff authorised by the headteacher have a statutory power to search a pupil or their belongings if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil may have a prohibited item (as listed in the DfE's [searching, screening and confiscation guidance](#)) or an item banned under our school rules.

They **can** use reasonable force to search for prohibited items (as listed in the DfE's searching, screening and confiscation guidance), such as knives, weapons, stolen items or illegal drugs.

They **cannot** use reasonable force to search for items that are banned under our school rules only, such as mobile phones.

The decision to use reasonable force to carry out a search should be made carefully, on a case-by-case basis and taking into consideration the level of risk to pupils and staff. Please see our behaviour policy for more information on how we conduct searches.

8. Prevention and de-escalation strategies

Restrictive intervention is used only when necessary. We aim to minimise its use as much as possible, using both whole-school and individual approaches.

Our whole-school approach includes:

- Consideration of how our school and classroom environment can support all pupils to achieve and thrive. For example, decluttered learning environment, differentiated learning, visual prompts to support communication, etc.
- Sharing best practice for whole-class behaviour management, and for managing communal spaces such as corridors and playgrounds. For example, using song cues to support transitions, use of countdowns, use of one-way system during transitions, etc.
- Training staff in all effective communication strategies, such as using appropriate tone of voice and empathy to aid de-escalation. For example: provide extra time to process or reduce verbal communication to facilitate information processing.
- Development of working staff-pupil relationships and trust. For example: use of intensive interaction, engage in play situations with pupils or enabling time for staff to support pupils during their most preferred activities.

- Recording and analysing data on the use of restrictive interventions to inform improvement planning. For example, SLT analysing Behaviour Watch entries to identify areas of improvement, run team supervision sessions with the Educational Psychologist to approach common behaviour trends in school, etc.

The individual approaches we use include:

- Working closely with parents/carers to support individual pupils
- Strategies to support individual pupils based on their identified needs, including:
 - The development of behaviour support plans, individual risk assessments and/or Individual Zones of Regulation plans.
 - Strategies to help pupils calm down before their behaviour escalates, as referred in their individual documents (risk assessments, behaviour support plans or zones of regulation plans)
 - Making 'reasonable adjustments' where a pupil has a temporary added difficulty, to help them participate in school life as fully as possible. For instance: temporary adjustment in their transition times, temporary adjustment in their timetable during start/end times, temporary use of dedicated adult support, temporary use of alternative learning pathway to ensure engagement with learning and the school life.

8.1 De-escalation when a situation arises

When a staff member is faced with a situation where a restrictive intervention may need to be used, they should consider using de-escalation techniques first, wherever possible. Techniques that could be used in these situations include:

- Having open body language and being aware of a pupil's personal space
- Taking a pupil away from an 'audience' – speaking to them on their own rather than in front of a group of other pupils or staff
- Using empathy – asking the pupil to help you understand their feelings (Use Zones of Regulation as a starting point with pupils, validate their feelings and offer factual information to help them identify how they feel. For example: *"I can see you are frowning, is there anything worrying you?"*, *"I see that you are in the red zone because you find difficult to use your words. Shall we look at the choice board to see what we could do to help you feeling better?"*, *"I know that you want to go shopping now and waiting is difficult. Shall we look at your timetable and check at what time we will go shopping?"*
- Distraction techniques or attention management (also known in our SEND schools as re-direction)
- Offering a calm space for the pupil to go to so they can self-regulate
- Verbal warnings – calmly reminding the pupil of what is expected from them, how you are planning to support them, the reasonable adjustment/compromise that is available and where appropriate and only when helpful, the consequences of their behaviour: *"keep the lunch tray down, we want to keep your head safe. I know it is loud. Let me open the door for you to go out of the dining hall and we will look for the ear defenders."* when pupil is calm you might want to refer to consequences: *"Earlier when you were hitting yourself it was dangerous as you could have injured your head."*

9. Deciding when the use of restrictive interventions is appropriate

9.1 Necessity and proportionality

The decision on whether to use restrictive interventions is down to the professional judgment of the staff member and will always depend on the individual circumstances of each situation.

Staff should always consider whether there are other ways to manage the situation, such as the de-escalation techniques outlined in section 8.1 of this policy and/or seeking assistance from a colleague. However, there may be times when staff have no other choice but to use restrictive interventions, to reduce the risk of harm to the pupil and/or others.

When assessing whether a restrictive intervention is required, staff should always consider:

➤ **Is it necessary?**

- Are there other more effective, less restrictive ways to manage the situation?
- Is a restrictive intervention likely to successfully reduce the risks, or could its use escalate the situation further or cause more harm than the behaviour itself?

➤ **Is it proportionate?**

- Staff should use the **least** amount of force or the **least** restrictive intervention for the **least** amount of time required to reduce the risks
- Staff in our SEND Federation Schools must always consider the individual circumstances of the pupil, such as their communication skills, their age, size and any medical conditions or other vulnerabilities.
- If the intervention itself is escalating the situation, staff should reconsider their approach and attempt an alternative strategy

9.2 Pupil and staff welfare as a SEND Federation

Pupil welfare

We understand that our pupils may react to distressing or confusing situations by displaying behaviours which may be harmful to themselves and others. Our Federation pupils have difficulty communicating verbally and might show their needs and discomfort through their actions.

Our Federation is committed to understanding what might trigger challenging behaviour in our pupils, and to providing the right support and an inclusive environment.

We will carry out risk assessments for all pupils, to identify if there is an increased likelihood of needing to use reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions. Our Federation is aware of its duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments for all our pupils with disabilities to avoid disadvantage and ensure they can take part in school life as fully as possible.

We will utilise staff who know individual pupils well to help identify and manage risk, such as trigger points when challenging behaviour is more likely to occur, and develop proactive strategies to reduce the likelihood of restrictive interventions being used. We will also work with the pupil, their parents/carers and other professionals to develop prevention and de-escalation strategies.

These strategies might include:

- Pro-actively and proportionally, removing stimuli that may be causing distress to the pupil.
- Staff members changing how they communicate with the pupil, such as engaging with pupils preferred communication strategy, being more mindful of body language, facial expressions and/or tone of voice
- Helping the pupil express their emotions before getting overwhelmed
- Engaging the pupil in activities to help them regulate their emotions
- Distracting the pupil with familiar objects or activities to redirect their attention
- Using positive language and a solution focused approach

Where appropriate, we will create individual behaviour support plans for pupils. The plan will be reviewed regularly, and following any significant incident, with the pupil and parents/carers to make sure it's still working well. The plan will:

- Outline any adjustments, such as to address aspects of the school environment which the pupil finds challenging

- Explain the best ways to communicate with the pupil
- In some cases, specify when increased physical contact with staff might be appropriate. These situations will be discussed with everyone involved and clearly written down in the plan. This also must be explicit and referenced in their individual risk assessment.

An important consideration when using a restrictive intervention is the safety and wellbeing of the pupil involved, as well as the safety of other pupils and staff. Staff should always consider the potential impact on the pupil's welfare balanced against any actions taken. For example, staff should bear in mind that pupils who have experienced adverse life events, trauma or neglect, or who have diagnosed or undiagnosed medical conditions or sensory impairments, communication difficulties or other needs, may find the use of restrictive interventions particularly distressing.

If a restrictive intervention is needed, staff should always aim to maintain respect for a pupil's dignity. This includes consideration of the location and environment where any intervention is used, such as in front of their peers.

Staff should, wherever possible, clearly and calmly communicate to the pupil what is happening, why, and what the pupil needs to do, including using verbal and non-verbal strategies where needed, and giving time for the pupil to process information and respond where appropriate.

Staff should seek to understand how the pupil is feeling and use this information to determine whether the restrictive intervention should be, or continue to be, applied, reduced or stopped.

Support following an incident

As soon as possible after any use of restrictive intervention, our school will evaluate the incident to understand why restrictive intervention was used, the impact on pupils and staff, any patterns and trends, and how another incident could be avoided in the future.

Our school will make sure each pupil and staff member involved get the right support, including a medical assessment and treatment if needed, and an opportunity to reflect on and talk through the incident.

This follow-up conversation(s) will be part of the overall debriefing process to understand what happened during the incident and why, based on separate reflections from all parties involved. Conversations should also aim to repair and rebuild relationships through dialogue.

Wherever possible, this process will be facilitated by a staff member who was not involved in the incident. It may also include the presence of an additional person from the DSL team or SLT team to ensure compliance with the policy, impartiality and support. The school will continue to monitor pupil and staff wellbeing and provide additional support if needed.

Depending on the circumstances, support may also be offered to those who witnessed the incident.

11. Training and risk assessments

Our school will make sure that all staff who are likely to need to use reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions are adequately trained in their safe and lawful use and in preventative strategies.

We also have a duty to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our staff. Therefore, we carry out risk assessments to ensure that staff who regularly work alongside pupils where the use of reasonable force and/or other restrictive interventions may be required can do so as safely as possible.

12. Recording and reporting arrangements

We have a legal duty to record and report all:

- Significant incidents involving force (see section 3 of this policy for a definition of 'significant incident')
- Seclusion incidents
- Restraint incidents

12.1 Recording incidents

Our school has a clear process in place for recording the incidents listed above.

- Significant incidents involving force will be reported to the immediately to the DSL/deputy DSL and recorded using Behaviour Watch.
- Seclusion incidents will be reported to the immediately to the DSL/deputy DSL and recorded using CPOMS.
- Restraint incidents will be reported to the immediately to the DSL/deputy DSL and recorded using a restraint form and logged onto CPOMS by the DSL/deputy DSL with attached completed form (dated and signed by member of staff). Form to be requested at the school office.

Staff must record incidents in writing, as soon as possible after the event, and must do this on the same day. Staff should do this even if the use of restrictive interventions is agreed as part of a pupil's behaviour support plan and/or their risk assessment.

For significant incidents involving force, we will record on Behaviour Watch:

- The names of the pupil and staff members directly involved
- Any relevant needs or circumstances of the pupil needs that helps building context for the behaviour triggering the intervention. For example, "Sensory seeking", "Dysregulation", etc.
- The time, date, location and approximate duration of the intervention
- A clear and brief description of what happened, including:
 - What led up to the incident
 - Any known or potential triggers for the behaviour
 - Any preventative or de-escalation strategies used
 - The type and degree of reasonable force used
 - Details of any physical injuries sustained, if applicable
- A brief explanation of why using force was assessed as necessary in that situation
- Details of any support given after the incident, such as medical help or emotional support, redirection, etc.
- SLT follow up: communication with parents, records of first aiding, immediate actions taken with staff, or processes followed where appropriate following the report.

For seclusion incidents (CPOMS) and restraint incidents (restrain forms):

- The names of the pupil and staff members directly involved
- Any relevant needs or circumstances of the pupil, including whether they have an identified special educational need or disability, and their SEN status code
- The time, date, location and approximate duration of the intervention
- A brief explanation of why the intervention was assessed as necessary in that situation
- Details of any physical injuries sustained, if applicable
- Details of any support given after the incident, such as medical help or emotional support
- SLT follow up: communication with parents, records of first aiding, immediate actions taken with staff, or processes followed where appropriate following the report.

Note: if a seclusion or restraint incident also constitutes a significant incident involving force, we will record it in line with our procedure for recording significant incidents involving force, that is CPOMS instead of Behaviour Watch. It does not need to be recorded twice.

Completed reports will be kept securely and retained in line with our data protection procedures.

12.2 Reporting incidents to parents/carers

When reporting an incident to parents/carers, we will take the following steps:

The DSL/SLT team will be notified and receive the completed report. The DSL/SLT member of staff will contact the parent/carer by telephone and where appropriate, will follow up in writing by email. Depending on the severity of the incident and the follow up needs, we will offer a face-to-face meeting.

The DSL/SLT will ensure that an overview of how the information is reviewed takes place to ensure procedures have been followed correctly and whether any additional paperwork is completed for monitoring purposes.

We will inform parents/carers about an incident as soon as we can after it happens and will endeavour to do this on the same day. We will do this even if the use of restrictive interventions is agreed as part of a pupil's behaviour support plan.

There is only one exception to this:

- If a member of staff thinks that telling the pupil's parents/carers would likely result in significant harm to that pupil. In these cases, we will report the incident to any parent(s)/carer(s) who it can be reported to without resulting in significant harm or, if there are none, to the local authority where the pupil ordinarily resides (see section 12.3 of this policy)

When we report **significant incidents involving force** to parents/carers, we will include the following details:

- The time, date, location and approximate duration of the intervention
- A brief explanation of why the intervention was assessed as necessary in that situation
- A short description of the type and degree of force that was used
- Details of any physical injuries sustained, if applicable

When we report **seclusion incidents and restraint incidents** to parents/carers, we will provide parents/carers with a copy of our written record of the incident.

Note: if a seclusion or restraint incident also constitutes a significant incident involving force, we will report it in line with our procedure for reporting significant incidents involving force. It does not need to be reported twice.

When reporting to parents/carers, we will have regard to data protection requirements when deciding what information to share. For example, we will not include any identifying details of any other pupil.

Following up with parents/carers after an incident

It's best practice for the SLT to invite parents/carers to have a follow-up discussion about the incident, where appropriate. For example, the discussion might include:

- Any behavioural triggers or warning signs of an impending incident
- Whether any agreed behaviour support plans were followed
- What de-escalation strategies were used and how effective they were
- What might be done differently in the future

12.3 Reporting incidents to the local authority

In cases where we have assessed that an incident needs to be reported to the local authority where the pupil ordinarily resides (as outlined in section 12.2), this report will include all the information that we would normally share with the pupil's parents/carers, as well as the reasons why we thought it was unsafe to tell the pupil's parents/carers directly.

In cases where a pupil has parents/carers and is the subject of a care order under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 or is being accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, we will report the incident to the relevant local authority in addition to the parents/carers (unless we deem it unsafe to inform the parents/carers, as set out in section 12.2 of this policy).

13. Complaints and allegations

Any complaints about the use of restrictive interventions will be handled through our school's complaints policy, which you can find on the school website <https://www.lansdowneturneyfederation.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=644&type=pdf> or request a copy from the school office.

We take any allegation of inappropriate use of force and/or other restrictive interventions made against a member of staff very seriously. We will deal with allegations in line with the statutory safeguarding guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

14. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the executive headteacher.

At every review, this policy will be approved by the full governing board.

15. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Behaviour policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Complaints policy
- Health and safety policy
- SEND policy

Date agreed by governing body on July 2026	Signature of Chair or Vice Chair
Date agreed for review	Frequency of Review Annual
Responsibility for Review Committee /Executive Headteacher	