

SOLIHULL MUSIC SERVICE

POLICY ON RESTRAINT

Background

Schools received advice – DfEE circular 10/98 – clarifying the power of teachers and other staff to use reasonable force to prevent students committing a crime, causing injury or damage, or causing disruption. Such powers already existed under common law.

Solihull provides Guidelines for all its employees whose work brings them into contact with children and young people.

Policy

1. The Head of Service authorises all staff to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils in their charge, where absolutely necessary, and where all other strategies for controlling pupils are inappropriate or have failed.
2. Force should not be used except in emergencies, to stop a child
 - harming him/herself;
 - harming others;
 - harming a member of staff;
 - causing damage to school property;
 - committing a crime;
 - causing disruption compromising good order and discipline.
3. Only minimum force for the shortest possible period of time should be used to stop the above happening. Teachers must not over-react, and should be seen to use “reasonableness” in their actions. Verbal threats that excessive force will be used may themselves be construed as assault.
4. Staff have a duty to act when there is a need, but only in such circumstances as described above.
5. If obliged to act, staff should submit a written report to the Head of Service as soon as possible (within 24 hours), using the Solihull Music Service Restraint Log Form. This may be followed by a more detailed report, as requested.
6. The student’s parents will be notified, either at once or later, in writing or orally, depending on the circumstances.
7. If there is a formal complaint, a disciplinary panel from the LEA may investigate and consider the legislation, the Service’s policy and whether these have been followed.
8. There are occasions when other physical contact with students may be appropriate, such as in certain specialised areas of teaching, first aid etc. Staff are reminded of the need for caution in this area, and for reference to the Solihull Guidelines.