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3 | Page Introduction Guidance concerning the use of reasonable force to restrain pupils can be found in section
550(A) of the Education Act 1996, as inserted by section 4 of the Education Act 1997. This
provision was extended to include all schools by section 131 of the School Standards and
Framework Act 1998. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Use of Reasonable Force (July 2013) DfE
Guidance document for headteachers, staff and governing bodies and Reducing the Need for
Restraint and Restrictive Intervention (June 2019). Other Policies
Other policies to be read in conjunction with this policy: x Behaviour policy x Health & Safety x Safeguarding (Child Protection) x Special Educational Needs x Search, Screening and Confiscation Rationale
3.1 The Education Act 1996 forbids corporal punishment, but allows all teachers to use reasonable
force to prevent a pupil from: x committing a criminal offence x injuring themselves or others x damaging property x acting in a way that is counter to maintaining good order and discipline at the school
3.2

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 Deciding whether to use reasonable force

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preventing a student running off the pavement onto a busy road or preventing a student
hitting someone with a dangerous object such as a glass bottle or hammer.
9.5 Staff should always make every effort to avoid acting in a way that might reasonably be
expected to cause injury. However, in the most extreme circumstances it may not always be
possible to avoid injuring a student.
9.6 TMET’s chosen trainer of positive handling is Team Teach ltd. “Team Teach techniques seek
to avoid injury to the service user, but it is possible that bruising or scratching may occur
accidentally, and these are not to be seen necessarily as a failure of professional technique,
but a regrettable and infrequent ‘side-effect’ of ensuring that the service user remains safe.”
9.7 Staff should always avoid touching or restraining a student in a way that could be interpreted
as sexually inappropriate.
10 Power to search pupils without consent
10.1 In addition to the general power to use reasonable force described above, headteachers and
authorised staff can use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances to conduct a
search for the following “prohibited items” : x knives and weapons x alcohol x illegal drugs x stolen items x tobacco and cigarette papers x fireworks x pornographic images x any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal
injury or damage to property.
10.2 Force cannot be used to search for items banned under the school rules.
10.3 See ‘Search, Screening and Confiscation Policy’ for further guidance.
11 Staff Training
11.1 The Special Educational Needs Co‐ordinator (SENDco) will also make individual risk
assessments available to staff where it is known that force is more likely to be necessary to
restrain a particular student, such as a student whose SEND and/or disability is associated
with extreme behaviour. Appropriate training will be given to the necessary staff working
with these students on a regular basis.

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11.2 Some key members of Inclusion staff and at least one member of SLT within each school will
be trained and regularly updated in the use of positive handling through Team Teach ltd.
Usually the staff are those most likely to find themselves in a situation that may require the
use of reasonable force and are therefore trained to do this correctly and in a lawful manner.
These staff must be trained in at least level 1 Team Teach training through a 6 hour positive
handling course.

11.3 Within TMET’s Designated Special Provisions (DSPs), all staff will be trained and regularly
updated in the use of positive handling through Team Teach at level 1 stage. Some key
members of staff within the DSP may be trained within level 2 or advanced Team Teach
training, dependent on need within the provision.

12 Recording/reporting Incidents

12.1 All TMET schools and colleges will keep records of every incident in which force has been
used, in accordance to TMET policy and procedures and safeguarding requirements. The
purpose of recording is to ensure policy guidelines are followed, to inform parents, to inform
TMET improvement processes, to prevent misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the
incident and to provide a record for any future enquiry.

12.2 Staff that can be called if a situation arises include:
x Behaviour mentor
x SENDco
x Support staff – trained and confident to deal with the situation
x Vice Principal
x Principal
x Head of School

 Staff to be informed If / when restraint takes