

# THE APOLLO EDUCATION PROJECT

## The Apollo Education Project Policy: Physical Restraint

Policies at The Apollo Education Project are written in accordance with the five outcomes contained within Every Child Matters:

- Being healthy.
- Staying safe.
- Enjoying and achieving.
- Making a positive contribution.
- Achieving economic wellbeing.

### 1. Rationale

- 1.1 This policy and guidance is written within the framework of Department of Education and Skills Circular 10/98, 'Restraint of Pupils' and Luton Borough Council's 'guidance for school staff on the use of physical interventions including restraints to manage behaviour'.
- 1.2 This policy relates to teaching and study support staff only. Other non-teaching staff may only restrain pupils physically if authorised to do so by the director.
- 1.3 This policy recognises that it may occasionally be necessary to use physical restraint when dealing with pupils. The right to restrain pupils falls within the teacher's duty of care derived from statute, contract and common law. If this course of action does not become necessary, it is important that the minimum restraint required is used and conducted within clearly understood and agreed guidelines.

### 2. Broad Goals

- 2.1 The main purpose of this policy is to make clear to all the staff the occasions where it may be appropriate and permissible to use physical restraint when dealing with pupils and to make clear action required after an incident involving physical restraint being used.

### 3. Outcomes

- 3.1 Staff that are confident about their responsibilities in respect of the use of physical restraint with pupils.
- 3.2 Normally there will be no need for staff to use physical force to control pupils. However, staff authorised by the provision director may use reasonable physical force in the following situations where a pupil needs to be prevented from:
- Harming himself or herself
  - Harming Others
  - Harming a member of staff
  - Causing damage to the facilities used by the provision

- 3.3 This policy applies at any time or place when a pupil is under the provision's authority, including off-site activities.
- 3.4 All those teaching and study support staff employed by the governing body are authorised. Other adults may be authorised either permanently or temporarily and the centre manager will maintain a list of such people and the limits of their authorisation.
- 3.5 Any physical restraint must be consistent with the concept of reasonable force. Key considerations are that:
- The circumstances must warrant the use of force. Committing a trivial misdemeanour would not constitute grounds for such action, for example, refusal to listen to instructions.
  - The degree of force employed must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and should be the minimum required to achieve the desired result.
- 3.6 Where at all possible staff should not try to de-escalate the situation first. A physical intervention should only be used when other methods to manage the situation are considered inappropriate.
- 3.7 Using physical contact to punish a pupil or cause pain, injury or humiliation is explicitly forbidden.
- 3.8 Where any authorised person uses force, except in minor or trivial cases a written report of the action must be completed and given to the centre manager with responsibility for behaviour for learning within 24 hours. The centre manager will inform the director and decide whether or not there is a need to inform parents/carers, in order to gain support in ensuring that the behaviour leading to the incident is not repeated.
- 3.9 Staff will be expected to take part in regular physical restraint training in conjunction with Pro-Act.

To be reviewed: September 2016