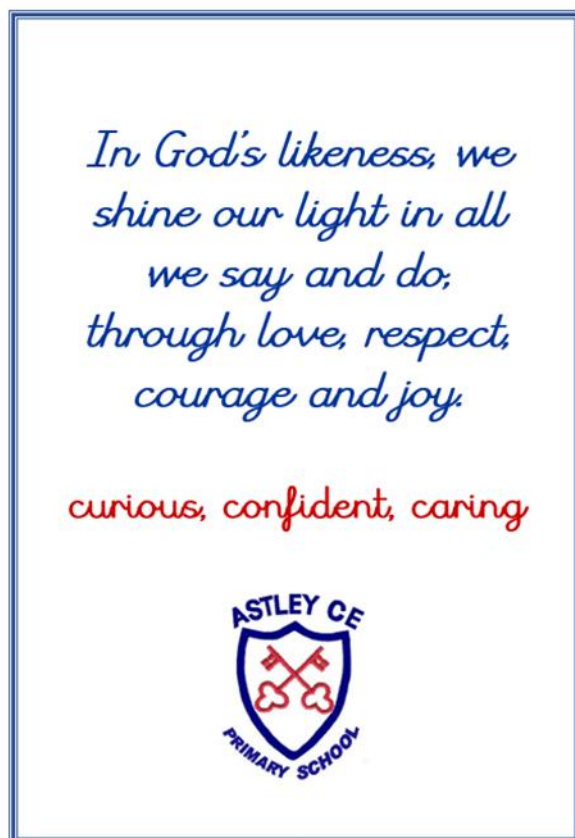


Responsible body	Title of policy	
Governing body	Restrictive Interventions (including Reasonable Force) Policy	

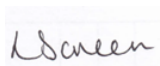
Our Vision



Ratified by the Governing Body: September 2026

Date for review: Annual (or sooner following statutory updates or incidents)

Signed by:



Chair of governors: Lisa Screen



Headteacher : Tracie Langfield

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1. Policy Statement

Astley Primary School is committed to safeguarding the welfare, dignity and rights of all pupils and staff. We recognise that restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, can have a significant physical and emotional impact and must therefore be **avoided wherever possible**.

Restrictive interventions will only be used **as a last resort**, when they are **lawful, necessary, proportionate and time-limited**, and when all other strategies, including de-escalation, have been attempted or are not appropriate.

This policy aligns with the Department for Education (DfE) guidance “**Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools**” (April 2026) and relevant legislation.

2. Scope and Status of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- All school staff (including teachers, support staff, supply staff and volunteers)
- Pupils on the school site and during school-led activities off-site

Parts of the DfE guidance—**specifically recording and reporting duties**—are **statutory**. The governing body must have regard to them.

3. Legal Framework

This policy is informed by, but not limited to:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006 (sections 93-93A)
- Restrictive Interventions, Including the Use of Reasonable Force, in Schools (DfE, April 2026)
- Schools (Recording and Reporting of Seclusion and Restraint) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2025
- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Children Act 1989 and 2004

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4. Definitions

Restrictive intervention

Any action that limits a pupil's movement, liberty or independence. This can be physical or non-physical.

Reasonable force

A type of restrictive intervention involving physical contact. What is "reasonable" depends on the circumstances and must be the **minimum force necessary** to prevent harm.

Significant incident

Any incident where the use of force goes beyond ordinary, everyday physical contact (for example, guiding, comforting or first aid).

5. Prevention and De-escalation

The school prioritises **prevention** through:

- Positive behaviour culture and clear expectations
- Trauma-informed practice
- Early identification of distress and unmet needs
- Individual support plans and risk assessments
- Reasonable adjustments for pupils with SEND
- Staff training in de-escalation and emotional regulation strategies

Restrictive interventions must **never** be used to compensate for a lack of support, planning or training.

6. When Restrictive Interventions May Be Used

School staff may use reasonable force **only** to:

- Prevent a pupil from injuring themselves or others
- Prevent a pupil from committing a criminal offence
- Prevent serious damage to property
- Prevent serious disorder that poses a risk to safety

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Force must **never** be used:

- As a punishment
- To enforce compliance
- To manage low-level disruption
- In a way that compromises breathing, circulation or dignity

7. Pupils with SEND

The school recognises that pupils with SEND may display behaviour as a response to distress. For these pupils:

- Reasonable adjustments **must** be considered
- Restrictive interventions should be anticipated and reduced through proactive planning
- Incidents must always be reviewed in the context of the pupil's needs and support arrangements

8. Post-Incident Practice

After any restrictive intervention:

- The pupil will be checked for injury or distress
- Medical attention will be sought where appropriate
- Staff involved will receive support and supervision
- A debrief will occur to identify learning and prevention strategies

9. Recording Responsibilities (Statutory)

The school **must** ensure that a written record is made for **every** significant incident involving the use of force.

Records must be completed:

- As soon as practicable, and ideally on the same day via CPOMS

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Each record must include:

- Date, time and location of the incident
- Names of pupils and staff involved
- The reason force was used
- De-escalation strategies attempted
- Type, degree and duration of force used
- Any injuries or medical treatment
- The pupil's SEND status (if applicable)
- Follow-up actions and support provided

Records form:

- Part of the pupil's safeguarding/education record
- Part of the school's institutional monitoring records

10. Reporting Responsibilities (Statutory)

Parents/carers **must be informed** of any significant incident involving the use of force by initial telephone call or face to face meeting:

- **As soon as practicable**, ideally on the same day
- Followed up with a **letter** describing the incident and intervention from the headteacher/DSL
- **Team Teach parent leaflet** will also be shared on initial incident

The report will include:

- A factual description of what occurred
- The reason the intervention was necessary
- Any injury or follow-up support

Exceptions

Parents will not be informed **only** where doing so would be likely to result in serious harm to the pupil or another person. In such cases, the incident will be reported in line with safeguarding procedures.

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11. Governance and Monitoring

The governing body will:

- Ensure this policy is implemented and reviewed regularly
- Monitor data on restrictive interventions
- Consider patterns, frequency and disproportionality (including SEND)
- Use data to inform training, safeguarding and behaviour improvement

12. Complaints and Allegations

Any complaint or allegation relating to the use of restrictive interventions will be managed in line with:

- The school's complaints procedure
- Safeguarding and allegations management procedures

13. Training

All staff will receive:

- Regular training on behaviour, de-escalation and safeguarding
- Guidance on lawful and safe use of restrictive interventions
- Ongoing support and supervision

14. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually
- Following any significant change in guidance or legislation
- Following serious incidents or identified themes from monitoring

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References

- Department for Education (2026) *Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>
- Schools (Recording and Reporting of Seclusion and Restraint) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2025

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