

LanCasterian Primary School



Restrictive Intervention Policy

Version No.	Date	Approved by	Review Frequency	Review Date
1	Sept 2026	Governors	2 years	2028

1. Policy Statement

Lancasterian Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, dignity, and rights of all pupils. We aim to provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment in which behaviour is understood as communication and is managed through positive and preventative approaches.

This policy reflects the April 2026 Department for Education guidance on restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, and complies with statutory requirements for recording and reporting.

2. Aims and Objectives

- To ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff
- To minimise the need for restrictive interventions
- To ensure any intervention is lawful, reasonable, and proportionate
- To promote positive behaviour through preventative strategies
- To ensure transparency, accountability, and safeguarding

3. Key Principles

- Restrictive interventions are used only as a last resort
- Any intervention must be reasonable, proportionate, and time-limited
- Interventions must never be used as punishment
- The focus is always on prevention, de-escalation, and understanding need

4. Definitions

Restrictive Intervention:

Any action that limits a pupil's movement, liberty, or independence.

Reasonable Force:

The minimum force necessary, used for the shortest time to prevent harm.

Seclusion:

Supervised separation of a pupil to prevent harm, where they are not free to leave.

Restraint:

Direct physical contact intended to limit a pupil's movement.

5. When Restrictive Interventions May Be Used

Staff may use reasonable force only to:

- Prevent injury to a pupil or others
- Prevent serious damage to property
- Prevent a criminal offence
- Maintain good order and safety

All use must be based on professional judgement and a dynamic risk assessment.

6. Prohibited Practices

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Use of force as punishment
- Any technique that restricts breathing or circulation
- Holding a pupil on the ground
- Applying pressure to the neck, chest, abdomen, or face

7. Prevention and De-escalation

The school prioritises:

- Positive relationships and behaviour support
- Early identification of needs, including SEND
- Individual behaviour or support plans
- De-escalation strategies (e.g. distraction, calm communication, space)
- Staff training in behaviour management

8. Use of Seclusion

Seclusion will only be used:

- To prevent immediate harm
- In a safe and supervised environment
- For the shortest possible time

Seclusion must:

- Never be used as punishment
- Be continuously monitored
- End as soon as the risk reduces

9. Recording and Reporting

All significant incidents involving restrictive interventions must be recorded on CPOMS.

Records must include:

- Date, time, and location
- Duration of the intervention
- Staff involved
- Description of the incident
- De-escalation strategies attempted
- Outcome and any injuries

Parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible, normally on the same day.

10. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Ensure implementation of this policy
- Monitor incidents and ensure compliance
- Ensure staff training is in place

Staff

- Follow this policy at all times
- Use interventions safely and appropriately
- Record and report incidents promptly

Governing Body

- Monitor use of restrictive interventions
- Ensure safeguarding and accountability

11. Pupils with SEND and Additional Needs

The school will:

- Carry out individual risk assessments
- Develop personalised behaviour/support plans
- Work closely with parents/carers and external professionals
- Make reasonable adjustments

12. Training

Relevant staff will receive training in:

- Behaviour management
- De-escalation techniques
- Safe and appropriate intervention

13. Post-Incident Support

Following an incident:

- The pupil will receive appropriate support

- Staff will take part in a debrief
- The incident will be reviewed to inform future practice

14. Monitoring and Review

- Incident data will be reviewed regularly
- Trends will inform school improvement
- This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required

15. Linked Policies

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- SEND Policy
- Health and Safety Policy