

# GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF FORCE

## To Control or Restrain Students

The Academy expects staff to use effective de-escalation strategies and, where appropriate, behaviour planning to minimise the frequency of challenging behaviour and any subsequent need for the use of force or restraint.

Instances where it is necessary to use any form of physical force are extremely rare and should be an option of last resort, but on such occasions, however infrequent, appropriate guidance has to be followed.

The County High School Leftwich adheres to the guidance issued by the Department of Education, July 2013: 'Use of reasonable force – advice for Headteachers, staff and Governing bodies'.

The key points of the guidance are as follows:

- Members of staff have the power to use reasonable force to prevent students committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline in the classroom.
- Regard must be given to the SEND status of any student(s) involved in an incident when considering the most effective strategies to be deployed to resolve that incident.
- Headteachers and authorised school staff may also use force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search without consent for knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks, pornographic images or articles that have been or could be used to commit an offence or cause harm.

Approved at Student Progress & Achievement Committee: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018

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This document is part of the group which include Safeguarding, Child Protection, Behaviour for Learning, Anti-Bullying, Acceptable Use, Online Safety, Exclusions, Policy Statement Additional & Special Education Needs, Drugs' Education, Use of Images, Student Illness, Accident & First Aid, Recruitment, Supporting Students with Medical Conditions, Single Equality Scheme and Health & Safety Policies.