



Maritime
Academy
Trust

Behaviour Policy Addendum: Restrictive Interventions (April 2026)

This addendum aligns with the Department for Education's Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools guidance, which became effective on 1 April 2026.

1. Core Principles

- Last Resort: Restrictive interventions are used only when absolutely necessary to keep children safe and never as a punishment.
- Prevention First: Our primary focus is on prevention, de-escalation, and understanding the root causes of distressed behaviour.
- Minimising Risk: Any force used must be the minimum required for the shortest time possible, ensuring it does not restrict breathing or circulation.

2. New Statutory Duties: Recording and Reporting

Effective from April 2026, we have a legal duty to record and report all significant incidents:

- Immediate Logging: All significant uses of reasonable force, seclusion, or non-force related restraint must be logged as soon as practicable, ideally on the same day in writing.
- Parental Notification: Parents or carers will be informed in writing "as soon as practicable but at least the same day" after an incident, including a clear explanation of the context and safeguarding measures taken.
- Detail Requirements: Records will include the reason for the intervention, the techniques used, and any injuries sustained by the pupil or staff.

3. Defining Seclusion

In line with new statutory definitions, seclusion (confining a pupil in a room they cannot leave) is only permitted in exceptional circumstances where there is a real and serious risk to safety. It will be monitored with the same rigour as physical restraint.

4. Appropriate Physical Contact

We maintain that appropriate physical contact is part of safe school life. This includes:

- Comforting a distressed pupil.
- Guiding a pupil (e.g., holding a hand to lead them to a self-regulation space).
- Safety (e.g., preventing a child from running into a road).

5. SEND and Inclusion

For pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), we will co-produce individual behaviour support plans with parents to prioritise de-escalation and reduce the reliance on restrictive practices. These plans will be reviewed with parents following any incident of restrictive practice.

6. Oversight and Training

- Staff Training: Relevant staff receive regular training in de-escalation, the lawful use of force, and legal reporting duties.
- Trust Review: The Trust Board will regularly review incident data to identify patterns and ensure the school is actively working to minimise the use of restrictive interventions.