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Kassim Darwish Grammar School for Boys

Use of Reasonable Force Policy

This policy is written in accordance with the DfE guidance for *'Use of Reasonable Force'* (July 2013). Any use of force by staff will be reasonable, proportionate and lawful and as outlined in this policy.

Any member of staff can use reasonable force. This includes any person whom the Executive Head teacher has temporarily put in charge of students such as volunteers accompanying students on a school trip.

The decision to use physical intervention is based upon the professional judgement of the member of staff concerned and is dependent upon the individual circumstances.

Reasonable force may be used inside or outside the classroom as well as during any school event, activity, trip or visit off the school premises.

The guidance in this policy enables members of staff to fulfil their duty of care towards a student and it enables them to take action to prevent a student causing harm.

DEFINITION OF REASONABLE FORCE

The term 'reasonable force' covers a broad range of actions that involve a degree of physical contact with students.

The use of force is reasonable if in the circumstances, it is proportionate to the consequences it is intended to prevent. This means the degree of force used should be **no more than is needed** to achieve the desired result.

Force can never be used as a form of punishment – corporal punishment is illegal.

School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury.

CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH REASONABLE FORCE CAN BE USED

Reasonable force can be used to prevent a student from:

- Hurting himself or another individual/group of individuals,
- Causing damage to his own or another individual's property,
- Causing disorder.

The needs of individual students will be considered when deciding whether reasonable force should be applied. Reasonable adjustments will be made for students with 'special educational needs or disabilities'.

No restraint technique must be used which presents an unacceptable risk to the student.

Refer to DfE Guidelines for *'Use of Reasonable Force'* (July 2013)

REASONS FOR USING REASONABLE FORCE

Reasonable force can be used for the following purposes:

- a) Control a student
- b) Restrain a student
- c) Search a Student without Consent

a) Force used to control a student

Control can be either:

Passive physical contact - such as standing between students or blocking a student's path,
or

Active physical contact - such as leading a student by the arm out of the classroom

Examples:

Guide a student to safety by the arm.

Remove a disruptive student from the classroom where he has refused to follow an instruction to do so.

b) Force used to restrain a student

"Restraint" means to hold back physically or to bring a student under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances. An example is when two students are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.

Examples:

Restrain a student at risk of harming himself or another person through physical outbursts.

Prevent a student from attacking a member of staff or another student.

Stop a fight.

Prevent a student leaving the classroom where allowing the student to leave would risk his safety or the safety of other students.

c) Force used to search a student without consent

Only members of the Senior Leadership Team can use reasonable force given the circumstances to conduct a search for any of the **prohibited items** from the list below:

- Knives and weapons
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Stolen items
- Tobacco and cigarette papers
- Fireworks
- Pornographic images
- Any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property.

Force 'cannot' be used to search for any other items banned under the school rules.

RECORD KEEPING OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE USE OF REASONABLE FORCE

A 'written' record is maintained of any incident where reasonable force is used by a member of staff.

The student's parents will be informed about 'serious incidents' involving the use of force. Members of staff will use their professional judgement when deciding what is a serious incident and consideration should be given to:

- Student's behaviour and level of risk presented at the time of the incident,
- Degree of force used,
- Effect on the student or member of staff,
- Student's age.

STAFF TRAINING

The Executive Head teacher will consider the need for additional training for staff to enable them to carry out their duty of care.

References:

DfE Guidelines for 'Use of Reasonable Force, July 2013

DfE Guidelines for Screening, Searching and Confiscation, February 2014

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Reviewed by	Mrs F Bani
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