



TAVERHAM HALL

Preparatory School

POLICY ON THE USE OF FORCE AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

All members of the school community should avoid physical contact with one another unless it is required in a sporting situation, a first aid situation or when a student is in distress. This was very much the message at the September 2009 INSET on Child Protection attended by Taverham Hall staff.

Teachers must use their professional judgement in this latter situation, although touching is not advised unless other pupils or members of staff are present.

Occasions may arise when “reasonable force” may be used to control or restrain pupils if circumstances require it. There is no legal definition of “reasonable force”, so the degree of force that may reasonable be used will always depend on the circumstances of the case. There are three relevant considerations:

The use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of the particular incident warrant it. The use of any degree of force is unlawful if the particular circumstances could be resolved without force.

The degree of force used is inappropriate. Any force used should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

The age and sex of the pupil.

Incidents which might promote such intervention include:

- Committing a criminal offence
- Injuring self or others
- Causing serious damage to property
- Self defence of staff

If force or restraint is deemed to have been necessary in a serious situation, a detailed written report should be given to the Headmaster as soon as possible after the incident.

The report should include:

- The names of those involved, and when and where the incident took place
- The names of witnesses, both other staff and students
- An explanation of why force was necessary
- The progression of the incident
- The student’s response, and the outcome of the incident. Details of any injury suffered by those involved or to property.

November 2010