

# Restrictive Interventions & Safeguarding: Staff Briefing

## Statutory Compliance Update: Effective April 2026

This document summarises the mandatory requirements of the **April 2026 DfE Guidance and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)** . All staff have a legal duty of care to be conversant with these changes.



## 1. The Legal Framework: "Reasonable Force"

- **Universal Power:** All members of school staff have a legal power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, committing a criminal offence, damaging property or causing significant disorder .
- **Reasonable and Proportionate:** "Reasonable" means using no more force than is needed for the shortest time possible.
- **Last Resort:** Force must only be used when no other realistic alternative exists. Staff must always attempt de-escalation first, such as using "Red & Green" choice cards or 30-second interventions .
- **Punishment is Illegal:** It is always unlawful to use force as a punishment; this constitutes illegal corporal punishment.

## 2. TeamTeach (TT) & Operational Roles

- **Planned Physical Intervention:** Only staff with a current 12-hour TeamTeach accreditation are authorised by the Head Teacher to use planned physical techniques.
- **Non-Trained Staff (Admin, Kitchen, Site):** You must not participate in planned holds. Your role is to:
  1. **Remove the Audience:** Guide other pupils to a safe area.
  2. **Summon Help:** Contact a TT-trained staff member or the SLT immediately.
  3. **Emergency Power:** You retain the power to intervene physically in an unforeseen emergency to prevent immediate harm .
- **The "More" Protocol:** If a TT-trained lead says "**Can I give you more help?**", they are taking over the intervention . You must step back and follow their direction immediately.

### 3. The "Seclusion" Distinction (CRITICAL)

Staff must distinguish between a disciplinary "Time Out" and restrictive "Seclusion".

- **Seclusion (Restrictive):** Confining a pupil **alone** in a room where they are **prevented from leaving** (e.g., by an adult blocking the door). This is a safety measure only, requires constant supervision, and must end the moment risk reduces.
- **Removal/Time Out (Disciplinary):** Working in a room (e.g., Ready to Learn Room) **with an adult** and/or other peers is **not** seclusion.
- **Equipment Restraint:** Removing a walking aid, wheelchair, or prosthetic to limit a pupil's movement is legally classified as **restraint** and must be recorded.

### 4. Mandatory Recording & Reporting (Statutory Duty)

- **Same-Day Record:** All significant incidents (any force or seclusion) must be recorded on **CPOMS** and the **V&A Tracker** before you leave site that day.
- **Reporting to Parents:** The school **must** inform parents of **every** significant incident no later than the same day.
- **No "Opt-Out":** We can no longer offer "tiered" reporting for significant incidents. Parents must be informed in writing (e.g., email) following an initial call.

### 5. Safeguarding, Health & Safety

- **Prohibited Techniques:** You must **never** apply pressure to the neck, throat, or chest or use holds that restrict breathing.
- **Medical Care:** Any pupil or staff member involved in a use of force must receive a medical assessment as soon as possible.
- **Witness Support:** Staff and pupils who witness a distressing incident are entitled to support and a debrief.
- **Reporting Concerns:** Any concerns regarding child welfare or excessive force must be reported immediately to a **DSL** (HT, Head of School, AHT or Dept Leader).

**IF IN DOUBT: Speak to a DSL immediately or request a TeamTeach update via the Head Teacher. Your safety and the pupils' safety depend on following these statutory procedures.**