

Use of Reasonable Force Policy

Emil Dale School of Performing Arts (EDSA) & Emil Dale Academy (EDA)***

****In this policy, the abbreviation of EDA will be used to cover all business streams*

1. Aims

At EDA we pride ourselves on the high standards of behaviour seen and expected of all staff and students. This policy is for the very rare occasion that a student is a danger to themselves or others, is damaging property or causing a disturbance.

2. Statutory & Legal Framework

EDA will act in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- Use of Reasonable Force Guidance (July 2013 Gov.uk)

3. Scope

This policy applies to all teaching staff, administrative staff, management staff and senior management staff at Emil Dale Academy.

4. Policy

This policy gives clear guidance to all EDA staff so they are protected and confident should there ever be a need to use reasonable force on a student.

What is reasonable force?

- To control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where students need to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
- 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- Colleges/schools generally use force to control pupils and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm away from the situation.
- Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example on the rare occasion two students could get into a fight and refuse to separate without physical intervention.
- Staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the pupil.

The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances.

When is reasonable force acceptable to use?

- To remove disruptive students from a learning environment where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so.
- To prevent a student from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight.
- To restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through a physical outburst.

When is it appropriate to tell parents/legal guardians when force has been used on a student?

- It is good practice to speak to parents/legal guardians about serious incidents involving the use of force and to consider how best to record such serious incidents.
- If a student is under the age of 18 or is a student on the full-time BTEC National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts Practice (Musical Theatre) course, EDA has an obligation to contact their parent/legal guardian. Host families will also be contacted if applicable.
- If a student is over 18 and on either the Gap Year or the BA (Hons) Musical Theatre course, it is up to EDA to decide whether it is appropriate to report the use of force to parents/legal guardians. Host families will also be contacted if applicable.
- In deciding what is a serious incident, staff should use their professional judgement and consider:
 - Students' behaviour and level of risk presented at the time of the incident,
 - Degree of force used,
 - Effect on the student or member of staff, and
 - The _____ students _____ age.

What happens if a student complains about force being used on them?

- All complaints about the use of force should be thoroughly, speedily and appropriately investigated. Please refer to EDA’s Student Complaint Policy to see further information on the complaints procedure.
- Where a member of staff has acted within the law – that is, they have used reasonable force in order to prevent injury, damage to property or disorder – this will provide a defense to any criminal prosecution or other civil or public law action.
- When a complaint is made the onus is on the person making the complaint to prove that his/her allegations are true – it is not for the member of staff to show that he/she/they has acted reasonably.
- Suspension must not be an automatic response when a member of staff has been accused of using excessive force. Schools/colleges should refer to the “Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff” guidance (see the Gov.uk website).

Document Review

Version Number	Date of Issue	Review Date	Author	Changes Made/ detail
01	16 th November 2021	July 2022	Charlotte Oliver & Eden Tinsey	First issue
02	1 st August 2022	July 2023	Eden Tinsey	Annual Policy Review