

# Use of Reasonable Force Policy

## 1. Aims

At Emil Dale Part Time (EDSA)\*\*\*, 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.

*\*\*\*In this policy, the abbreviation of EDSA will be used.*

**Emil  
Dale**  
PART TIME

## **2. Statutory & Legal Framework**

EDSA 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 EDSA teaching staff, Animation Team staff, administrative staff and management staff.

## **4. Policy**

This policy gives clear guidance to all EDSA 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 an EDSA member to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where members need to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.
- 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.
- EDSA staff members will only use force to control pupils and to restrain them when necessary. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between members or blocking a member's path, or active physical contact such as leading a member by the arm away from the situation.
- Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a member under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example on the rare occasion two members 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 member.

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 members from a learning environment where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so.
- To prevent a member from attacking a member of staff or another member, or to stop a fight.
- To restrain a member 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?*

EDSA has an obligation to contact a members' parent/legal guardian. All EDSA staff must inform the EDSA Manager of any reasonable force that has been used, alongside of an account that led to the incident taking place. The EDSA Manager must write this account down, inform the relevant member's contacts, and inform Emil Dale Academy's Business, Compliance & Strategy Manager who may need to take further action depending on the severity of the situation.

*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 EDSA'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 defence 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/their 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 should refer to the “Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff” guidance (see the Gov.uk website).

Version Number	Date of Issue	Review Date	Author	Changes made/detail
1	14 November 22	July 23	Eden Tinsey	First issue