

**BEAUFONT FIRST SCHOOL,
NURSERY AND BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

NURTURING HAPPINESS, ACHIEVEMENT AND RESPECT

RESTRAINT - 'SAFE TOUCH' POLICY SUMMARY DOCUMENT

This is a summary of the *Restraint - 'Safe Touch' Policy*.

The full policy provides detailed rationale behind Beaufront's policy regarding restraint and the use of physical contact in the context of behaviour and wellbeing, and should be referred to in conjunction with this summary document.

- All members of staff have a legal power to use reasonable force. This power extends to people whom the Headteacher has temporarily put in charge of pupils such as unpaid volunteers or parents accompanying a school trip. Parental consent is not required. (DfE, 2013)
- At Beaufront reasonable force is accepted and understood as meaning 'using no more force than necessary in the given circumstances'.
- Reasonable force is only used when a child is putting themselves or others at risk, or when refusing to leave a situation in which they are causing significant disruption to learning.
- It is our legal duty to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for those children with a disability or with special educational needs (SEND).
- At Beaufront we understand that physical restraint is a last resort.
- Gentle 'safe holding' is appropriate in less serious situations, particularly with the younger children and with children with SEND.
- 'Safe touch' is an accepted and well-researched means available to staff seeking to calm, contain, or encourage a child.
- Safe touch supports healthy emotional development and safe emotional regulation in children.
- Safe touch will only be used by trained staff and in line with the school's Safeguarding and Behaviour policies.
- Safe touch will be used as developmentally appropriate and in situations in which staff would be neglecting their duties of care if they were to fail to provide physical security and care, for example, holding a distressed or upset child.

- Physical interventions used at Beaufront are in line with the guidance documents 'New Guidance on the use of Reasonable Force in School' (DfE, 1998) and 'Use of Reasonable Force' (DfE, 2013)
- When reasonable force has been used it will be recorded in writing on the day of the incident by the member of staff involved and shared with the Headteacher or another member of senior staff.
- Parents will be informed when reasonable force has been used.
- The use of reasonable force and safe touch will be reviewed regularly by staff for the purpose of sharing best practice and to ensure that any use of reasonable force and safe touch has led to improved outcomes for the child/ children and adults.