



Moorland Junior School

RESTRAINT & CORPORAL PUNISHMENT POLICY

Links to other policies:

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy; Building Better Behaviour Policy; Hands on Code of Conduct for Staff

Any use of restraint force by staff will be reasonable, proportionate and lawful. Reasonable force will be used in accordance with the DfE guidance [Restrictive Interventions including Use of Reasonable Force \(2026\)](#) and as set out as below.

Corporal punishment is not used at Moorland Junior School and force is never used as a form of punishment.

Restraint will be used only when immediately necessary and for the minimum time necessary to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following:

- committing a criminal offence;
- injuring themselves or others;
- causing damage to property, including their own;
- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to good order and discipline at the School or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in a classroom or elsewhere.

Where restraint is used by staff, this is recorded in writing.

Use of reasonable force

Reasonable force may be used to prevent a pupil from doing or continuing to do any of the following:

- committing a criminal offence
- injuring themselves or others
- causing damage to property, including their own
- engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to good order and discipline at the School or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs in a classroom or elsewhere.

In these circumstances, force will be used for two main purposes: to control pupils or to restrain them. Reasonable force may be used, for example, to restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves or another individual or to prevent a pupil leaving a classroom, where allowing him / her to do so would risk his / her safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others.

In addition, reasonable force may be used to conduct a search for "prohibited item" (see below).

In deciding whether reasonable force is required, the needs of individual pupils will be considered and reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities.

Where reasonable force is used by a member of staff, the Headteacher must be informed of the incident and it will be recorded in writing. The pupil's parents will be informed about serious incidents involving the use of force. Reporting to parents should happen on the day in question and always within 24 hours.

Should it appear to the Headteacher that providing information about an incident to a parent would be likely to result in significant harm to the pupil then that parent will not be contacted or notified in relation to the incident. If it appears to the Headteacher that there is no parent of the pupil to whom the Headteacher could provide information about the incident without that being likely to result in significant harm to the pupil, then the Headteacher must provide information about the incident to the local authority within whose area the pupil is ordinarily resident.

All schools have a general power to impose reasonable and proportionate disciplinary measures on pupils (Education and Inspections Act 2006). This enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty where it is reasonable to do so. The School's policy on searching and confiscation has regard to guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE), [Screening, searching and confiscation \(July 2022\)](#).

Prohibited items

The following are "prohibited items" under Section 550ZA(3) of the Education Act 1996 and Regulation 3 of the Schools (Specification and Disposal of Articles) Regulations 2012:

- knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs and stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks and pornographic images
- any article that a member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:

to commit an offence or

to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil) and

any item banned by the School rules that are identified as being items which may be searched for.

The School has banned items that are reasonably believed to be likely to cause harm or disruption. Pupils must not have these items in their possession on School premises or at any time when they are in the lawful charge and control of the School (for example on a School trip).

As provided in the School rules, at Moorland School the following items are banned items that may be searched for if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has the item in their possession:

Sonic alarms, stink bombs, other items consistent with practical jokes

Searching with consent

Before any search is undertaken the pupil will usually be asked to consent. In seeking consent, the age and maturity of the pupil will be taken into account together with any special needs the pupil may have. Written consent will not usually be required.

If a member of staff suspects that a pupil has an item that is banned by the School, they can instruct the pupil to turn out his or her pockets or bag. If the pupil refuses, disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with the School's Building Better Behaviour Policy.

Searching for prohibited items

Where the Headteacher or an authorised member of staff have reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil may have a prohibited item, consent is not required and the search will be carried out, using reasonable force where appropriate.

The Headteacher has authorised the following staff to carry out searches and retain or dispose of items in accordance with this policy: All classroom teachers and their superiors.

Searches will be carried out only on School premises or, if elsewhere, where the member of staff has lawful control or charge of the pupil, for example on a School trip or in training settings.

When pupils travel outside England on a School trip, they will be required as a condition of participating in the trip to confirm their consent in writing to any search that may be considered necessary by an authorised member of staff during the period in which pupils are outside England.

If it is believed that a pupil has a prohibited item, it may be appropriate for a member of staff to carry out:

- a search of outer clothing and / or
- a search of School property (e.g. pupils' lockers or desks) and / or
- a search of personal property (e.g. bag or pencil case).

Searches will be conducted in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress. Any search of a pupil or their possessions will be carried out in the presence of the pupil and another member of staff. Where a pupil is searched, the searcher and the second member of staff present will be the same gender as the pupil.

Where it is reasonably believed that serious harm may be caused if the search is not carried out immediately and it is not practicable to summon another member of staff, a member of staff may carry out a search of a pupil of the opposite sex and / or in the absence of a witness.

Where the Head, or staff authorised by the Head, find anything which they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item, they may seize, retain and dispose of that item in accordance with this policy.

Confiscation

Under the School's general power to discipline, a member of staff may confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty where it is reasonable to do so.

Confiscation of an item may take place following a lawful search, as set out above, or however the item is found if the member of staff considers it to be harmful or detrimental to school discipline.

Searching electronic devices

An electronic device such as a mobile phone or a tablet computer may be confiscated in appropriate circumstances in accordance with this policy. If there is good reason to suspect that the device has been, or could be used to cause harm (including cyberbullying), to disrupt teaching or break School rules, any data or files on the device may be searched and, where appropriate, data or files may be erased before the device is returned to its owner. Any data or files will only be erased if there is good reason to suspect that the data or files have been, or could be used to cause harm, to disrupt teaching or break School rules.

If inappropriate material is found on an electronic device, the member of staff may delete the material, retain it as evidence of a breach of School discipline or criminal offence or hand it over to the police if the material is of such seriousness that police involvement is required.

Disposal of confiscated items

Alcohol: alcohol which has been confiscated will be destroyed.

Controlled drugs: controlled drugs will usually be delivered to the police as soon as possible. In exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Headteacher or authorised member of staff, the drugs may be destroyed without the involvement of the police if there is good reason to do so. All relevant circumstances will be taken into account and staff will use professional judgement to determine whether the items can be safely disposed of. They will not be returned to the pupil.

Other substances: substances which are not believed to be illegal drugs but which are harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline (for example "legal highs") may be confiscated and destroyed. Where it is not clear whether or not the substance seized is an illegal drug, it will be treated as though it is illegal and disposed of as above.

Stolen items: stolen items will usually be delivered to the police as soon as possible. However, if, in the opinion of the Head or authorised member of staff, there is good reason to do so, stolen items may be returned to the owner without the involvement of the police. This is likely to apply to items of low value, such as pencil cases.

Tobacco or cigarette papers: tobacco or cigarette papers will be destroyed.

Fireworks: fireworks will not be returned to the pupil. They will be disposed of safely at the discretion of the Headteacher or other authorised member of staff which may include donation to an appropriate charity.

Pornographic images: pornographic images involving children or images that constitute "extreme pornography" under section 63 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 will be handed to the police as soon as practicable. As possession of such images may indicate that the pupil has been abused, the School's Designated Person for Child Protection will also be notified and will decide whether to make a referral to LCC children's social care Duty Team.

Other pornographic images will also be discussed with the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead. The images may then be passed to LCC children's social care Duty Team for consideration of any further action. If no action is to be taken by the local authority the images will be erased after a note has been made for disciplinary purposes, confirming the nature of the material.

Article used to commit an offence or to cause personal injury or damage to property: such articles may, at the discretion of the Headteacher or authorised member of staff taking all the circumstances into account, be delivered to the police, returned to the owner, retained or disposed of.

Weapons or items which are evidence of an offence: such items will be passed to the police as soon as possible.

An item banned under School Rules: such items may, at the discretion of the Headteacher or authorised member of staff taking all the circumstances into account, be returned to its owner, retained or disposed of. Where staff confiscate a mobile phone that has been used in breach of School Rules to disrupt teaching, the phone will be kept safely until the end of the School day when it can be claimed by its owner. If a pupil persists in using a mobile phone in breach of School Rules, the phone will be confiscated and must be collected by a parent.

Electronic devices: if it is found that a mobile phone, laptop or tablet computer or any other electronic device has been used to cause harm, disrupt teaching or break School Rules, including carrying out cyberbullying, the device will be confiscated and may be used as evidence in disciplinary proceedings. Once the proceedings have been concluded the device must be collected by a parent or carer and the pupil may be prohibited from bringing such a device onto School premises or on School trips. In serious cases, the device may be handed to the police for investigation.

Communication with parents

There is no legal requirement for the School to inform parents before a search for banned or prohibited items takes place or to seek their consent to search their child and it will not generally be practicable to do so. However, we will inform parents of any search that takes place and provide details of any items that have been found. In appropriate cases we will consult parents on how the School should dispose of certain items.

We will keep a record of searches carried out which can be inspected by the parents of the pupil(s) involved subject to any restrictions under the Data Protection Act 1998. The record will include details of the disposal of items confiscated.

Complaints about searching or confiscation will be dealt with through the School's Complaints Procedure. A copy of the procedure is posted on the School website and hard copies are available from the School Office on request.

The School will take reasonable care of any items confiscated from pupils. However, unless negligent or guilty of some other wrongdoing causing injury, loss or damage, the School does not accept responsibility for loss or damage to property.

REVIEWED AND UPDATED	SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL	DATE FOR REVIEW
October 2026	Mrs A Brotherton	October 2027