



St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School

Force and Restraint Policy

"I serve Jesus with my body, heart, mind and soul."

Serviam means 'I serve'. Jesus Christ has taught us that it is more blessed to serve than to be served. At St Ethelbert's school, following our Catholic faith, we serve the whole person – mind, heart, body and soul.

Body – because we care for our wellbeing, our parish neighbourhood and our environment.

Heart – because we teach love and respect for all.

Mind – because we believe in excellent education.

Soul – because we learn to pray and become closer to God as his children.

Safe Handling of Children

Rationale

The purpose of St Ethelbert' Catholic Primary School is the broad and balanced education of each child with Gospel values at the heart of everything we do.

The paramount responsibility of every person connected with the school is the safety and welfare of its children. Through a sense of order and a sense of purpose the care and education of children are made more effective.

The Department of Education Circular 1999/9 quotes Article 4 of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998. On any occasion where a member of staff has responsibility for a pupil (in school or outside the premises) this order permits the member of staff to use "such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing an offence;
- Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself); or
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether during a teaching session or otherwise."

In St Ethelbert's Primary School the use of safe handling with children will always be as a last resort or in an emergency where it is possible that significant harm will occur if action is not taken immediately.

At all times at St Ethelbert's we will always try and talk to a child who may be in distress and or not compliant with requests. Safe handling of a child would only take place as a last resort.

Situations where safe handling might be necessary include:

- A pupil attacking another pupil or a member of staff;
- Pupils fighting;
- A pupil causing, or likely to cause damage or injury by rough play, accident, willful action or misuse of dangerous materials and items;
- A pupil running in a corridor where there is a risk of accident;
- A pupil trying to leave school;
- A pupil defying repeated instructions to leave a classroom;
- A pupil seriously disrupting a lesson.

It is within this context that safe handling, on occasions, may be necessary.

Complaints

Any complaint following the use of safe handling will be considered according to the procedures outlined in the school's policy for dealing with complaints made against a teacher.

Review

This policy has been written and agreed in response to the Department of Education Circular 1999/9 and updated in light of guidance material issued by DENI and SEELB in 2003. It will be reviewed annually in relation to ongoing individual and environmental risk analyses, advice and training.

Mrs Rebecca Borrough

Review October 2017