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Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you because the Department for Education has issued new guidance on the use of reasonable force in schools, which came into effect from 1st April 2026.

The use of reasonable force is *a term used in legislation which includes physical restrictive interventions*. It is rarely used at school and is only used as a last resort, to keep the child or other children safe and when it is assessed to be reasonable, proportionate and absolutely necessary. Should reasonable force be used, this will be the least amount necessary and for the shortest amount of time.

What will be different?

At present, we would always contact you if there had been an incident at school. The main change is that you will now receive written details if your child is involved in an incident where reasonable force has been used.

We will still talk to you about any incidents to let you know what happened, why it happened and to talk through any changes we will make to reduce the chance of it happening in the future, but you will now also receive written confirmation to meet the new government requirements.

If you would like to read the guidance yourself you can find it on the government website [Use of reasonable force in schools - GOV.UK](#).

If you have any concerns about this or a specific incident please do come and talk to us at any time.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Henry

Mrs Caroline Henry (Head of School)

