

# Reasonable force

▶ All schools within IFtL will adhere to the permitted actions in line with government guidelines on the restraint of children. The Education Act 1996 forbids corporal punishment but permits staff to use 'reasonable force' to prevent a pupil from:

- ▶ • Committing a criminal offence
- ▶ • Injuring themselves or others
- ▶ • Damaging property
- ▶ • Acting in a way that is counter to maintaining good order and discipline at the school.

▶ Reasonable means 'Using no more force than is needed.' When using reasonable force in response to risks presented by incidents involving children with SEND or disabilities or with medical conditions schools should consider the risks carefully and recognise the additional vulnerability of these groups. (KCSiE, 2020)

- ▶ Early and proactive intervention with a focus on de-escalation is the key approach and ‘positive handling’ will only be used as a last resort according to the criteria stated above.
- ▶ Appropriate training by qualified team-teach trainers needs to be provided for staff where you can anticipate positive handling may be required and positive handling plans for these children, agreed with the parents/ carers, need to be in place.
- ▶ If positive handling does occur, they must always be recorded within the positive handling book and number book and parent/ carers informed.