

Haydon Abbey School and Pre-School

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Headteacher: Miss Ashleigh Ferdinand



27th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of an important update to our school policies relating to restrictive interventions and the use of reasonable force.

This update follows new statutory guidance from the Department for Education, which came into effect on 1 April 2026. You can view the full guidance here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6943dad6501cdd438f4cf5aa/Restrictive_interventions_including_use_of_reasonable_force_in_schools.pdf

As a result of this guidance, we have reviewed and updated our policy to ensure it reflects current national expectations and best practice.

At Haydon Abbey School and Pre-School, our approach remains unchanged in principle. We are committed to creating a safe, supportive environment for all pupils and staff, and we continue to view any form of restrictive intervention as a last resort. As outlined in our policy, these measures are only ever considered when all other preventative and de-escalation strategies have been exhausted, and when it is necessary to keep a child or others safe.

The updated guidance introduces some key changes, and I would like to highlight two important developments:

Firstly, schools are now required to notify parents in writing if their child is involved in an incident involving restraint or seclusion. At our school, we will use our SmartLog reporting system for this purpose, which is the same system we currently use to report first aid incidents.

Secondly, while a written report will be provided, our priority remains clear communication. A member of staff will always aim to contact you in person or by telephone as soon as practically possible following any such incident. This allows us to give a full and sensitive explanation of what has happened before the written report is shared.

If you would like to read the full policy, it is available on our website. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. H. Jones
Deputy Headteacher

