



April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you about new national guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE) regarding restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools. This guidance applies to all schools in England from 1 April 2026 and replaces the previous 2013 guidance.

At Holybrook Primary School, the safety, dignity and wellbeing of our children and staff are always our highest priority. The updated guidance reinforces this by placing a strong emphasis on prevention, early support and de-escalation, and by setting clear expectations for how schools must record and communicate with parents if a restrictive intervention is used.

### What are restrictive interventions?

Restrictive interventions are actions that temporarily limit what a child is able to do in order to keep them or others safe. This can include the use of reasonable force and, in very limited circumstances, restraint or seclusion.

Always used as a last resort to prevent serious harm.

### Our approach at Holybrook

Holybrook already works in line with the expectations set out in the new guidance. We focus on:

- Creating a calm, supportive environment
- Using early intervention and de-escalation
- Providing staff with specialist training
- Supporting children with individual needs



Calmly guiding a child to a quieter space

Safely guiding a child away from risk

### Keeping parents informed

- Make a detailed written record of what happened
- Inform parents as soon as practicable, ideally the same day
- Explain what happened, why it was necessary, and how the child is being supported

### Further information

Our behaviour, safeguarding and SEND policies are being updated in line with the new guidance. If you have any questions, please contact the school. Or search [www.Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) Use of reasonable force in schools

Yours sincerely

Chris Lloyd

Headteacher