



Headteacher: Miss L. Glover, B.Ed (Hons and QTS) NPQH

Telephone: 01942 727 717

Website: <http://www.willowgroveprimary.org.uk>

31st March 2026

Dear parent/carers,

We are writing to let you know about updated guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) titled "Restrictive intervention, including use of reasonable force, in schools." This guidance comes into effect on 1st April 2026 and introduces some new mandatory requirements for schools.

[Use of reasonable force and other restrictive interventions guidance](#)

We are pleased to reassure you that we already meet many of these requirements. For most families, this update will not change how we communicate with you. However, we want to explain the changes, to make sure you are fully informed and to explain why we are sharing some information differently.

Occasionally, some of our young people may need additional adult support to help keep themselves and others safe. This might involve trained staff (using Team Teach) providing physical support, briefly holding a child to prevent harm, or guiding them to a supervised safe space away from others so they can calm and regulate with support. These situations are always exceptional, carefully considered, and used only when necessary and as a last resort. A letter will still be sent to you, as we believe this is the best way to communicate with our parents/carers, however under the new DfE guidance, we are now required to provide additional information following any restrictive intervention. You may have noticed the new format letters, that we started sending out on the 23rd of March 2026, these may be refined depending on your feedback. Further information about the written notifications can be found in the government guidance document which can also be found on our school website.

We understand that you may have further questions after receiving this information. We would also like to reassure you of the following:

- Reasonable force is used only where there is a real and immediate risk of harm to the pupil or others, or serious damage or disorder, and where less restrictive options are insufficient in the circumstances.
- Our approach is always child-centred, with a strong focus on prevention, de-escalation, and understanding each child's individual needs.
- Any intervention is ended as soon as it is safe to do so and is reviewed afterwards.

Please note that this guidance does not apply to everyday, appropriate physical contact and support, such as:

- Holding a pupil's hand when walking together around school or on a school outing
- Comforting a distressed child with a supportive help hug
- Supporting a child to move to a space they have chosen to help them regulate
- Any support that a child can freely walk away from if they choose



These are considered non-restrictive because the child can move away.

Above all, your child's emotional and physical wellbeing remains our highest priority. We are committed to keeping all children safe while maintaining their dignity, respect, and individual needs.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact us. A translated copy of this letter can be made available should you need it.

Your contacts in school are:

Headteacher: L.Glover
Deputy Headteacher: P.Bolton
Pastoral Care Lead: S.Latham
Team Teach Lead Trainer: C.Trevor

Yours faithfully,

Miss L Glover

Miss L.Glover
Headteacher