

NASS statement on restraint and restrictive intervention (RRI)

Claire Dorer, CEO of NASS (the National Association of Independent and Non-maintained Special Schools) said:

“No child should ever be injured through the use of restraint. We stand with the families in the report to share the good practice in our schools and do all we can to keep children safe.”

“I’ve seen excellent child-centred, rights-based approaches in many of our schools, and we are committed to sharing that practice across our membership. When children’s behaviour is supported positively, not only is the need for restrictive practice reduced, but their engagement with learning improves. All parents should feel confident that their children are safe, happy, and able to learn at school – whatever their additional needs.”

“We want to see government guidance in this area published as soon as possible, and to work together with schools, families and other experts to develop recognised training around positive behaviour support.”

- Through our training, advice and information, NASS supports our member schools to use child-centred, rights-based approaches to safeguarding, and work in partnership with families. We see lots of good practice in our schools, using positive behaviour support approaches, to reduce restrictive interventions and improve children’s engagement in learning.
- We want to build on this good practice, to ensure that all schools have the training and skills to support children safely.
- We would like to see:
 - The long-awaited Department for Education guidance on RRI, which we first commented on back in 2015, published as soon as possible
 - A recognised PBS framework and training programme for schools, built on existing evidence of ‘what works’ and developed in partnership with the sector
 - Further development of a community of practice for PBS in schools.
- In terms of recording and reporting incidents of RRI, we haven’t come across schools that don’t do this. It is an integral part of safeguarding and communication with families. We do not oppose regulations around recording and reporting incidents of RRI. There were regulations around this in the past, though we are not sure that the resulting data was well used.
- Our focus is on supporting the spread of good practice and training to prevent incidences of RRI.
- Restraint should only ever be an absolute last resort to keep a child safe from hurting themselves or others. It should never be used as a sanction or a way of managing behaviour.
- Where restraint is used as a last resort to keep a child safe, a full debrief should take place in a timely and sensitive way with everyone involved – including the child and their family – to understand what happened and why, with the aim of making sure the situation does not arise again, for example by revising behaviour support plans.