



Statement in response to use of mechanical restraint chairs:

“Fit, active children with learning disabilities and autism should not be strapped into chairs in order to contain them. This form of mechanical restraint is an outdated way of responding to challenging behaviour and has no place in educational settings in the UK in 2022. The impact of restraint on children and their families can be lifelong and significant, but we know that schools can support children successfully without the use of harmful restraint.” Viv Cooper, CEO, The Challenging Behaviour Foundation

The RRISC group, which includes the Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) and Positive and Active Behaviour Support Scotland (PABSS) published a report ^[1] based on information gathered from over 700 families, which identified injuries to children including bruises, abrasions, scratches, head injuries, cuts and broken bones as a result of restraint, seclusion and other restrictive interventions in schools across the UK. Some families have discovered that their children have been restrained multiple times at school without their knowledge. Schools are not required to record or report instances of restraint or seclusion and do not have to inform families. This leaves disabled children some of whom have limited communication skills at risk of harm.

An inquiry into the use of restraint in schools by the Equality & Human Rights Commission highlighted potential discrimination and made recommendations to the government in June 2021. The Government have yet to set out what action it intends to take in response. The persistence and determination of Mr & Mrs Montague has bought to light these damaging practices and once again highlighted the need for urgent action.

The Government must now introduce a legal duty upon schools to record and monitor the use of restraint, and to share that information with parents. Building on existing good practice in schools that do not use restrictive interventions, the Government should introduce national standards for training in schools and demonstrate their commitment to addressing this issue.”

Support

For families worried about their relative's care, see our 'When things go wrong' website page for information and where to go for support: [When things go wrong - Challenging Behaviour Foundation](#)

¹ (*Reducing Restrictive Interventions of Children and Young People Update Report, 2020*) [rireportfinal.pdf](#)
(challengingbehaviour.org.uk)

About the Challenging Behaviour Foundation

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation is the charity for children and adults with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour is described as challenging and those who support them.

Our vision is for anyone with severe learning disabilities who displays behaviours that challenge to have the same life opportunities as everyone else. We're making a difference to the lives of children and adults across the UK through:

- providing information about challenging behaviour
- peer support groups for family carers and professionals
- supporting families by phone or email
- running workshops to reduce challenging behaviour
- speaking up for families nationally / campaigning

We work to improve understanding of challenging behaviour, empower families with information and support, and help others to provide better services and more opportunities.

For media enquiries please call the CBF Office on 01634 838739 or email info@theCBF.org.uk

About the RRISC group

The Reducing Restrictive Interventions – Safeguarding Children and Young People (RRISC) group is a group of organisations working with families to tackle the issue of restrictive interventions across the UK.

[Find out more: Restraint and Seclusion](#)