

Restrictive Practices Policy

Benowa State High School is committed to fostering a safe and supportive learning environment that upholds the dignity and rights of all students. In alignment with the Queensland Department of Education's Restrictive Practices Procedure, our policy outlines the circumstances under which restrictive practices may be employed, ensuring they are used only as a last resort to prevent harm.

Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Define the conditions under which restrictive practices are permitted at Benowa State High School.
- Detail the reporting, notification, and oversight responsibilities of school staff and administration.
- Emphasize proactive strategies to manage at-risk behaviours, minimizing the need for restrictive interventions.

Definition of Restrictive Practices

Restrictive practices are interventions that limit the rights or freedom of movement of a student. These include:

- **Seclusion:** Involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which they cannot freely exit.
- **Physical Restraint:** Use of physical force to prevent, restrict, or subdue movement of a student's body or part of their body.
- **Containment:** Confining a student within a room or area where their freedom is restricted.
- **Mechanical Restraint:** Application of a device to a student's body to restrict their movement.
- **Chemical Restraint:** Use of medication to control a student's behaviour or movement.
- **Clinical Holding:** Physical holding of a student to carry out a medical procedure.

Guiding Principles

At Benowa State High School, the use of restrictive practices is governed by the following principles:

- **Last Resort:** Restrictive practices are employed only when all other strategies have been exhausted and there is an immediate risk of harm.
- **Proportionality:** Any intervention must be proportionate to the circumstances and cease once the risk has been mitigated.
- **Dignity and Rights:** The dignity and rights of the student are to be respected at all times.
- **Safety:** The safety of all students and staff is paramount.

Procedures

- 1. Prevention and Early Intervention**
 - Implement positive behaviour support strategies to address challenging behaviours proactively.
 - Develop individualized behaviour support plans in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including parents and specialists.
- 2. Use of Restrictive Practices**
 - Restrictive practices may only be used when there is an immediate risk of harm to the student or others, and no less restrictive alternatives are effective.
 - Any application of restrictive practices must be in accordance with the Department of Education's guidelines.
- 3. Reporting and Documentation**
 - All incidents involving restrictive practices must be documented promptly and accurately.
 - Parents or guardians are to be notified as soon as practicable following the use of a restrictive practice.
 - Reports should be submitted to the principal and, where required, to the Department of Education.
- 4. Review and Monitoring**
 - Each incident will be reviewed to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention and to identify opportunities for alternative strategies.
 - Regular training will be provided to staff on positive behavior support and the appropriate use of restrictive practices.

Consultation and Communication

Benowa State High School values open communication with parents and guardians. We encourage consultation in the development and review of behaviour support plans and this policy. Our Student Code of Conduct reflects our commitment to minimizing the use of restrictive practices and promoting positive behaviour support.

For more detailed information, please refer to the Queensland Department of Education's Restrictive Practices Procedure.

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This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure alignment with current legislation and best practices.