

Restrictive Practices Policy

In accordance with the department's procedures on restrictive practices, state school staff have a non-delegable duty of care to take reasonable action to prevent the risk of foreseeable harm to students, themselves and other persons.

Generally, the restrictive practices permitted under this procedure must only be used where:

- the restrictive practice is reasonable in all the circumstances, and
- there is no less restrictive measure available to respond to the behaviour in the circumstances.

At our school restrictive practices refers to the use of interventions or strategies that have the effect of restricting the rights or freedom of a student. Restrictive practices may include:

i. Seclusion and physical restraint

Staff may only use seclusion or physical restraint where:

- the student is behaving in a way that poses an immediate foreseeable risk of harm to themselves or others
- the seclusion or physical restraint is reasonable in all the circumstances as a response to the student's behaviour, and
- there is no less restrictive measure available to respond to the student's behaviour in the circumstances.

Examples of physical restraint that might be "reasonable" in the circumstances would be:

- using manual guidance to prevent a student running onto a busy road
- holding a student to prevent them physically attacking someone, or
- holding a student's hand to prevent repetitive, serious self-injurious behaviour.

ii. Containment

Containment may be used as a short term planned strategy only with individual students as part of:

- a period of initial assessment when a student is new to the school and there is evidence that the student presents a risk of harm to themselves or other people
- a period of settling into a new environment or reintegration to school after a period of absence when there is evidence that the student presents a risk of harm to themselves or other people
- intensive short-term support in response to frequent behaviour presenting a risk of harm to the student or other people.

Containment will not be relied on as a long term strategy and the use will be time limited. A plan to evidence how and when the containment will be reduced and when it will cease to be used in consultation with parents and/or other stakeholders.

Whilst the department's Restrictive Practices procedure does identify other practices including mechanical restraint, chemical restraint and clinical holding, we expect that such restrictive measures would not be required, and would be considered only after significant consultation with parents and appropriately qualified health care professionals.

A full copy of the department's Restrictive Practices procedure can be viewed at <https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/attachment/restrictive-practices-procedure.pdf>