



MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

Rationale:

To minimise the effect of challenging behaviour, the board shall ensure that effective procedures are in place around the management of student behaviour and the use of physical restraint.

Guiding Principles:

- To minimise the effect of challenging behaviour, the board shall ensure that effective procedures are in place around the management of student behaviour and the use of physical restraint.
- Generally, physical restraint is not to be practised at Botany Downs Secondary College under any circumstances, unless the safety of the student, other students, or any staff is at risk.
- Other methods of modifying a particular students' behaviour must be considered before physical restraint is used.
- Physical restraint of a student can be used in situations where the teacher or authorised staff member reasonably believes that the safety of the student or any other person is at serious and imminent risk. The restraint used must be reasonable and proportionate given the circumstances.

Delegations:

The board delegates to the principal:

- Responsibility for ensuring that adequate staff training and support is in place.
- The reporting of incidents of physical restraint to parents, caregivers, and the Ministry of Education.
- Notification to parents and caregivers if an element of physical restraint is in a student's individual behaviour plan.

Limitations and expectations:


- Physical restraint is defined as using physical force to prevent, restrict or subdue the movement of a student's body or part of the student's body against the student's will and is a serious intervention.
- Staff shall be well versed in prevention and de-escalation strategies used to limit the need to physically restrain a student.
- Use of physical restraint is limited to teachers or authorised staff members and only where:
 - the physical restraint is necessary to prevent imminent harm to the student or another person; and
 - the teacher or authorised staff member reasonably believes that there is no other option available in the circumstances to prevent the harm; and
 - the physical restraint is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances.
- Authorised staff are employees trained and authorised by the principal to use physical restraint.
- Teachers and staff members who are authorised to physically restrain students shall receive suitable training and support.
- Corporal punishment and seclusion of students is prohibited. Seclusion of students is defined as placing a child or student in a room involuntarily, alone and from which they cannot (or believe they cannot) freely exit.

Associated legislation:

- [Education and Training Act 2020](#)
- [Education \(Physical Restraint\) Rules 2017](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work Act 202015](#)

Review:
Triennially

New	Tabled and Adopted
May 2021	31 May 2021

Board Chair Signature:	
Date:	31 May 2021