



RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES

Ascot State School staff respond to student behaviour that presents a risk of physical harm to the student themselves or to others. Most instances of these behaviours can be de-escalated and resolved quickly. On rare occasions, a student's behaviour may continue to escalate and staff need to engage immediately in positive and proactive strategies to support the student to manage their emotional responses and behaviour.

In very rare circumstances, where there is immediate risk of physical harm to the student or other people, and when all other alternative strategies have failed to reduce the risk, it may be necessary for staff to use restrictive practices.

The Ascot State School Executive and all staff have an obligation to manage at risk behaviours of students with the aim of preventing the use of restrictive practices. The use of restrictive practices will always be the last resort, when there is no other available option for reducing immediate risk to the student, staff or other people. Restrictive practices are never used for punishment or as a disciplinary measure.

The Department's Restrictive Practices Procedure is written with consideration for the protection of everyone's human rights, health, safety and welfare. There are six fundamental principles:

- Regard to the human rights of those students
- Safeguards students, staff and others from harm
- Ensures transparency and accountability
- Places importance on communication and consultation with parents and carers
- Maximises the opportunity for positive outcomes, and
- Aims to reduce or eliminate the use of restrictive practices.

Ascot State School endeavours to use a range of alternative approaches and will only employ restrictive practices such as physical restraint, seclusion or mechanical restraint when there is an immediate risk consistent with the Restrictive Practices Procedure.

Seclusion will not be used as a planned response and will only be used in serious circumstances for managing unforeseeable situations in an emergency. It will be used for the shortest time possible and in a safe area that presents no additional risk to the student. In these emergencies, a staff member will observe the student at all times and seclusion will cease as soon as possible. The incident will be reported immediately to your sector leader.

All incidents of restrictive practices will be recorded and reported in line with departmental procedures. Following the use of any restrictive practice, a focused review will be undertaken with all relevant persons to fully understand the situation, level of risk and actions taken. Discussions will focus on whether there are other options for managing a similar situation in the future and what further training or support could be put in place.

Gayle Coleman
Principal

Ashley Busse
School Council Chair