



Fact sheet

Practice principles – restrictive practices

The Department of Education is committed to providing high quality, inclusive education and a safe, supportive and disciplined school environment for all students, staff and visitors. Additionally it is not acceptable for any school employee to face physical harm in the workplace or to expect they might be harmed during the course of their work.

This document should be read with the Restrictive practices procedure.

Guiding principles

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
- where there is no less restrictive measure available to respond to the behaviour in the circumstances.

Restrictive practices

Restrictive practices are the use of interventions and practices that have the effect of restricting the rights or freedom of movement of a person. Restrictive practices include:

- seclusion;**
- containment;**
- physical restraint;**
- mechanical restraint;**
- clinical holding;**
- chemical restraint.**

Principals will ensure their school's approach to using restrictive practices is outlined in the school's Student Code of Conduct, and will arrange for staff to receive appropriate professional training.

So far as possible, schools will work in such a way that they will optimise approaches of positive behaviour support, for responding to behaviour of students that poses an immediate foreseeable risk of harm and will implement procedural advice so as to reduce reliance on restrictive practices.

The practice principles are:



Regard to the human rights of students by ensuring that restrictive practices are not used to punish a student or to force their compliance. The use of any restrictive practice will occur only when there is no less restrictive measure available to respond to the behaviour and is reasonable in the circumstances.



Safeguarding students, staff and others from harm will be achieved by ensuring that schools are safe places to be educated and work. That the best interests of students and wellbeing of staff is supported through procedure, policy and practice.



Transparency and accountability will be actioned through the development of the school Student Code of Conduct. Every Queensland school that intends to make provisions for staff to use restrictive practices must clearly state this intention in their Student Code of Conduct.



Consultation and communication will be encouraged and parents will be consulted as part of the development of the school's Student Code of Conduct. Parents will be consulted about plans that likely affect their child and informed if their child is subject to a restrictive practice.



Maximise the opportunity for positive outcomes through the adoption of evidence based positive behaviour support and providing staff with appropriate training and development.



Aim to reduce or eliminate the use of restrictive practices through adopting evidence based positive and proactive behaviour support approaches and ensuring that restrictive practices are only used when no other less restrictive option is available in the circumstances.