



RESTRICTIVE INTERVENTIONS POLICY

1 SOURCE OF OBLIGATION

- 1.1 Under the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017* (Vic) (sch 4 cl 12), Minaret College (**the College**) must ensure that the care, safety and welfare of all Students attending the College is in accordance with any applicable State and Commonwealth laws. This includes providing evidence of when it may be necessary to use restrictive interventions to protect the safety of a Student and members of the College community.

2 PURPOSE

- 2.1 The College is committed to ensuring the safety of its Students (including Students at risk of causing physical harm or danger to themselves or others), staff, visitors, parents/guardians and all members of the College community.
- 2.2 The College aims, wherever possible to avoid the use of physical restraint and seclusion. Where intervention is required, it will be proportionate to the situation and will have regard to the dignity of the Student.

3 PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 The College provides a safe environment for Students, staff and all members of the College community.
- 3.2 The College takes all reasonable measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Students, staff and members of the College community.
- 3.3 The College ensures that where necessary to apply “restrictive interventions”, this is done in accordance with any applicable State and Commonwealth laws.
- 3.4 The College ensures that all staff are advised of their obligations under State and Commonwealth laws. This includes having policies and procedures for when it may be necessary to use restrictive interventions to protect the safety of a Student and members of the College community.

4 SECLUSION

- 4.1 When used by a staff member in immediate response to behaviours of concern, Seclusion may also include situations where a Student is left alone in a room or area and reasonably believes they cannot leave that room or area even if they would physically be able to, i.e. it is not locked. The College will ensure that any Student in Seclusion confinement will be able to respond to an evacuation alarm.

5 POLICY

- 5.1 Physical Restraint or Seclusion must not be used except in situations where the Student's behaviour poses an imminent threat of physical harm or danger to self or others; where such action (i.e. to physically restrain or seclude) would be considered reasonable in all of the circumstances; and where there is no less restrictive means of responding in the circumstances.
- 5.2 Restraint or Seclusion should be discontinued as soon as the immediate danger has dissipated.
- 5.3 Every effort should be made to prevent the need for the use of physical Restraint or Seclusion.
- 5.4 It should only be used as a last resort and the decision about whether to use Restraint or Seclusion should be made in accordance with the staff member's own professional judgement.
- 5.5 If physical Restraint is required, College staff must only apply the physical Restraint for the minimum duration required and must remove it once the imminent risk has passed.
- 5.6 College staff must use the minimum force needed to protect against the risk of harm by the Student.
- 5.7 Supine Restraint and Prone Restraint are prohibited as forms of Restraint at the College.
- 5.8 College staff should ensure the type of restraint used is consistent with a Student's individual needs and circumstances including:
 - a) the age/size of the Student;
 - b) any impairment of the Student;
 - c) any mental or psychological conditions of the Student, including any experience of trauma;
 - d) any other medical or other conditions;
 - e) the likely response of the Student to the restraint; and
 - f) the environment in which the Restraint is taking place
- 5.9 The Department of Education and Training has a policy on 'Restraint and Seclusion'. College staff must be familiar with this policy. To the extent that this policy is inconsistent with the Department of Education and Training's policy, the Department's policy will prevail in line with good industry practice.
- 5.10 The Department of Education and Training will regularly review and update, as appropriate, its policy regarding the use of physical restraint and seclusion. The College will periodically monitor for updates, review these updates and adopt changes to this Restrictive Interventions Policy as deemed appropriate.
- 5.11 Every instance of Restraint or Seclusion must be reported and recorded to Student file on Sentral.

- 5.12 All parents/guardians must be informed of this Policy and also the Department of Education and Training's Policy (which is currently available at <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/restraint-seclusion/policy>)
- 5.13 In every instance of Restraint, the breathing of the Student should be visually monitored.
- 5.14 In every instance of Seclusion, the Student must be visually monitored throughout the incident by a staff member to ensure that the Seclusion is justified, time limited and that the Student, and other Students and staff are safe.
- 5.15 Restraint and Seclusion should not be used as part of a behaviour support plan for a Student, or used as a routine behaviour management technique, to punish or discipline a Student or to respond to:
- a) a Student's refusal to comply with a direction, unless that refusal to comply creates an imminent risk to the safety of the Student or another person.
 - b) a student leaving the classroom/school without permission, unless that conduct causes an imminent risk to the safety of the student or another person.
 - c) verbal threats of harm from a Student, except where there is a reasonable belief that the threat will be immediately enacted.
 - d) property destruction caused by the Student unless that destruction is placing any person at immediate risk of harm.
- 5.16 Mechanical Restraints should never be used unless the device is for a therapeutic purpose with written evidence of the prescription or recommendation of use, or if the Restraint is required for safe travel in a vehicle.
- 5.17 Any behavioural intervention must be consistent with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic) and also the Student's rights to be treated with dignity and be free from abuse.
- 5.18 All teachers, and relevant school staff should be trained regularly on the appropriate use of effective alternatives to physical Restraint or Seclusion, such as positive behaviour supports.
- 5.19 Wherever possible, only a staff member trained in using physical Restraint should use physical Restraint on a Student, and at least one other staff member should be present to witness the Restraint being used and monitor the wellbeing of the Student being Restrained.
- 5.20 The staff member(s) involved in the incident of physically Restraining or Secluding a student must immediately notify the Head of Campus and Executive Principal of the incident, as well as making a record in Student file on Sentral.
- 5.21 Each incident involving the use of physical Restraint or Seclusion must be documented in writing by the Head of Campus as soon as practicable after the incident. The written record will be added to the Student's file. The staff who were involved / present at the incident should prepare a written statement of their involvement or observations of the incident to be included on the Student's file.
- 5.22 The Head of Campus or Executive Principal should notify parents / guardians as soon as possible following each instance in which physical restraint or seclusion is used with their child and provide them with details of the incident.

- 5.23 Following the use of Restraint or Seclusion of a Student, appropriate supports will be offered to the Student and their parents/guardians including participation in decisions involving the need for the Student's behaviour management, development of a Behaviour Management Plan pursuant to the Student Discipline Policy and the implementation of student support services.
- 5.24 Counselling and/or debriefing will be offered to Students and staff members who were involved in or witnessed the incident.
- 5.25 Any use of physical Restraint or Seclusion must trigger a review of the incident by the Executive Principal and Head of Campus and, if appropriate, a revision of behavioural strategies currently in place to address behaviour that causes harm to self or others.
- 5.26 The College will consider preventative and de-escalation strategies that might reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring again. If positive behavioural strategies are not in place, the College should develop them.
- 5.27 The incident may need to be reported to Worksafe or Edusafe, where necessary and appropriate.

6 DEFINITIONS

"Prone Restraint" involves holding a Student face down and is not permitted at the College.

"Restraint" or **"Restraining"** includes the following:

- a) The Victorian Department of Education and Training defines restraint to mean the use of physical force to prevent, restrict or subdue movement of a student's body or part of their body. Students are not free to move away when they are being restrained.
- b) In the disability industry the term "restrictive intervention" and practices has a specific meaning and restrictive intervention can only be used by registered disability service providers that have the approval of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services. This policy uses the term "restraint" as "restrictive intervention".
- c) In some limited circumstances, restraint may also include restraining a Student from imminent dangerous behaviours by Secluding them in an area where such action is immediately required to protect the safety of the Student or any other person.

"Seclusion" is the solitary confinement of a Student in a room or area (e.g. a garden) from which their exit is prevented by a barrier or another person and **"Secluding"** has a similar meaning.

"Student" means a Student that is currently enrolled at the College.

"Supine Restraint" involves holding a Student face up and is not permitted at the College.

7 RELATED POLICIES

- Child Safety Policy;
- Child Safety Code of Conduct;
- Duty of Care Policy;
- Suspension and Expulsion Policy;
- Staff Code of Conduct; and
- Student Code of Conduct.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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