



USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

In order to provide a safe environment for all students and staff, it may be necessary to use physical restraint in dealing with students who are unable to control their own behavior. Physical restraint is not a discipline procedure and must not be used in a punitive manner.

In dealing with disruptive students, any person employed by the Division may, within the scope of employment, use reasonable and appropriate physical intervention or force as necessary for the following purposes:

1. To prevent physical injury to a student, self, or others
2. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon a student or within the control of a student
3. For the purpose of self-defence
4. For the protection of persons or property.

Whenever possible, physical restraint is to be implemented by staff trained and knowledgeable in proactive management strategies and restraint techniques such as the Low Arousal Approach or Working Effectively with Violent and Aggressive States (WEVAS). A training schedule will be set up for some staff after Covid. It should be implemented in accordance with the student's individualized education plan (IEP) if one exists, and be used only as a last resort when less intrusive interventions have been exhausted.

Any such acts are not in conflict with the legal definition of child abuse and shall not be construed to constitute corporal punishment within the meaning and intention of this policy.

If there is damage to or loss of personal property of a staff member in the course of using physical restraint the Division will assume responsibility for repair, or if repair is not possible, for replacement to those personal effects (e.g. eyeglasses, clothing) required specifically in the course of employment. If replacement is necessary, only the original cost will be the Division's responsibility, with an original receipt.

If injured in the process of physical restraint, claims from non-teaching personnel should be sent to the Worker's Compensation Board first.

Accessories, which staff choose to wear not required for employment (e.g. jewellery), would not be covered.

Swan Valley School Division prohibits the use of corporal punishment.