

Restraint of Student Policy

Ratified: 30th May 2017

Rationale:

The physical restraint of a student by staff can (and sometimes should) occur in certain circumstances, but is generally a measure of last resort to prevent an individual harming themselves or others.

Aim:

To identify the circumstances by which the restraint of a student is the proper course of action.

Implementation:

- Regulation 15 of the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007 states: *“A member of the staff of a Government school may take any reasonable action that is immediately required to restrain a student of the school from acts or behaviour dangerous to the member of staff, the student or any other person.”*
- The regulation authorises *‘reasonable’ action which is ‘immediately’* required to ‘restrain’ a student.
- In less serious cases, the reasonable action would involve a warning or instruction to the student not to proceed.
- In more serious cases where a person faces an imminent threat of injury due to the student, the reasonable action could involve the physical restraint of the student.
- The intent of the restraint is to avert danger to a person or persons. It should therefore be measured (i.e. reasonable in the circumstances) and removed once the danger has passed.
- Parents/guardians will be notified if their child is restrained by staff and informed of any follow up disciplinary action and/or counselling that is recommended by the school
- It is recognised that some students with intellectual or physical disabilities may at times have difficulty controlling their bodies and therefore may need to have flailing limbs etc guided or restrained by staff as a normal procedure.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.