

KEY POINTS ABOUT RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION



Restraint and seclusion must only be used as a last resort **in an emergency** where there is an imminent threat of physical harm or danger to the student or others and should not form part of a behaviour management strategy or support plan for a student.



Prone restraint (holding a student face down) and supine restraint (holding a student face up) is not permitted within Victorian government schools. All restraint or seclusion incidents must trigger a review of the student's behaviour support plan (BSP).

Every instance of restraint or seclusion can undermine the professional relationship between the student and school staff and the quality of the student's educational experience.

Every instance of restraint or seclusion has the potential to place the student and staff member in a harmful situation, which can include injury and death.

In every instance of restraint, breathing must be visually monitored.

Every instance of restraint or seclusion must be reported to enable data collection, monitoring and review of the effectiveness of existing strategies and the need for any additional resources.

Every instance of seclusion must be visually monitored throughout by a staff member to ensure that the seclusion is justified, time limited and that the student, and other students and staff are safe.

Restraint and seclusion are not permitted within Victorian government schools, except:

- in situations where the student's behaviour poses an imminent threat of physical harm or danger to self or others; and
- where such action (i.e. to physically restrain or seclude) would be considered reasonable in all the circumstances; and
- where there is no less restrictive means of responding in the circumstances.

Restraint or seclusion should be discontinued as soon as the immediate danger has dissipated.

