



Tanglin Gippsland Restraint and Seclusion Policy

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1 Overview

- 1.1 Tanglin Gippsland is committed to protecting the safety of the children entrusted to our care as boarders. Tanglin is therefore committed to providing a caring, safe, secure and friendly environment, with staff members who demonstrate, by their actions, that they can be trusted and respected.
- 1.2 Tanglin is committed to acting in accordance with the Department of Education and Training’s policy on Restraint of Students, which states that staff “*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.*”

2 Definitions

- 2.1 In this policy, *physical restraint* means 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 physically restrained.
- 2.2 *Seclusion* is the involuntary confinement of a student in an area from which the student is prevented from leaving by a barrier or another person. Seclusion does not include supervised situations such as time-out, in-school suspensions, detentions, or exam situations, or other situations where the student can freely exit an area. Neither does it refer to suspension and expulsion from the campus.
- 2.3 A *student support plan* is a document developed collaboratively with parents or guardians of the student. Staff involved in the development of the document may include the Head of Campus, Head of Pastoral Care, teachers and other staff. Other relevant professionals may be required to be involved in the development of such a document.

3 Details

- 3.1 Staff members may only use seclusion or physical restraint on a student when it is immediately required to protect the safety of the student or any other person. In such situations, staff members should use the minimum force needed and for the minimum duration required to protect against the danger of harm. Once the immediate danger has passed, restraint or seclusion should cease.
- 3.2 Restraint should never involve the covering of the student’s mouth or nose, restrict breathing in any way, taking the student to the ground, into the prone or supine position, involve the

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hyperextension of joints, or application of pressure to the neck, chest or joints. Mechanical restraints should not be used.

- 3.3 Physical restraint and seclusion other than as authorised by this policy must never be included in a student support plan.
- 3.4 Student support plans may appropriately include steps to prevent such escalation of the student's behaviour, and particular triggers that may cause escalated behaviour.
- 3.5 The decision regarding whether to use physical restraint or seclusion rests with the professional judgment of the staff member/s involved, who will need to take into account both their duty of care to all students and the need to ensure their own personal safety.
- 3.6 If restraint or seclusion is used, staff members should monitor the student for any indicators of distress. Staff members should talk to the student throughout the incident, explaining why the physical restraint is being applied and that the physical restraint will stop once it is no longer necessary for protection.
- 3.7 Following every incident of restraint of a student, an Incident Report form is to be completed by the relevant teacher, and the Head of Campus is to ensure that a review of the incident (including policy, procedure and related risks) occurs.
- 3.8 In cases where a student's behaviour has caused, or threatens to cause, harm to themselves or to any other person, parents/guardians may be asked by Tanglin to take particular action, including removal of their child from the campus.
- 3.9 Where a student's ongoing behaviour places themselves or others at risk, and cannot be alleviated appropriately, Tanglin may be required to reconsider the enrolment of such student.
- 3.10 If a student is placed in a room or area for a period of seclusion, staff should ensure that:
 - The room or area is not considered to be a confined space,
 - The room or area is free from items that may be used by the student to harm them self or others,
 - The period of seclusion is for the minimum duration required to protect against harm to self or others, and
 - The student is under observation by a staff member for the entire time.
- 3.11 In situations where a student's behaviour does not return to a safe level in an appropriate amount of time, staff should consider seeking further assistance from the Police and/or Ambulance Victoria.

4 Related Tanglin Gippsland policies

- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Student Code of Conduct
- Staff and Student Professional Boundaries Policy
- Student Discipline and Behaviour Policy

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5 Policy Review

- 5.1 This policy is approved by the Board of Tanglin Australia and will be reviewed at least every two years by Tanglin’s Leadership Team. Leadership Team consists of the Tanglin Gippsland Head of Campus, Head of Learning and Head of Pastoral Care.
- 5.2 Any significant changes to this policy must be approved by the Board.

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