



PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT/PHYSICAL CONTAINMENT

The Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board is committed to the establishment and maintenance of safe, caring, equitable and inclusive school and workplace environments for all pupils, staff and members of the school community.

The use of corporal punishment is prohibited. The Board supports the use of progressive discipline whenever appropriate and promotes positive student behaviour.

DEFINITIONS

Corporal Punishment: the infliction of physical pain on a person as a penalty for doing something which has been disapproved of, by the punisher. Corporal punishment includes the use of the strap, manhandling, or striking with objects or the body.

Physical Containment: is a predetermined and well-defined series of safety procedures whereby staff physically intervene to support a student who is posing an imminent physical risk-of-injury to self and/or others in order to minimize and/or eliminate the risk. As a last resort, the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board supports staff in the management of a student's behaviour through the use of pre-determined and pre-approved physical containment techniques as defined in Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training.

The term "corporal punishment" will not apply to the use of **reasonable physical containment** in the following situations:

- For the purposes of self-defence;
- To protect the student and others from physical injury;

It is recognized that at times, containment may need to be exercised by those in positions of authority. The Criminal Code allows for the use of force to prevent the commission of an offence. Only the least amount of force necessary should be used. As you contain, say "If you are calm, I can release you". The goal is to use containment for as little time as possible.

GUIDELINES

In the event that physical containment is used, related to the incidents listed above, the following reporting procedure will be followed:

1. Contact parent(s)/guardian(s);
2. File a written report with the principal (or superintendent) about relevant details;
3. Principal to document the date and reason for action using the Physical Containment Incident Reporting form – see Related Forms.
4. Debriefing of staff:
 - reviewing the antecedent or trigger for prevention in the future
 - reviewing the stages of response (de-escalation techniques used or what could be used in the future) as stated in the safety plan;

- checking for physical and emotional well-being, discuss next steps if appropriate.

Reference to related form: Physical Containment Incident Report to be completed and forwarded to the School Superintendent, Special Education Curriculum Coordinator and a copy placed inside the Ontario Student Record (OSR)

APPENDICES:

A Physical Containment Incident Report

April 2019