Physical Intervention

Staff may make legitimate use of physical intervention if all non-physical interventions have been exhausted and/or a student is:

- Physically assaulting another student or staff member
- Posing an immediate danger to him/herself or to others

Appropriate physical intervention may be used to ensure that Flagstone State Community College’s duty of care to protect students and staff from foreseeable risks of injury is met. The use of physical intervention is only considered appropriate where the immediate safety of others is threatened and the strategy is used to prevent injury.

Physical intervention can involve coming between students, blocking a student’s path, leading a student by the hand/arm, shepherding a student by placing a hand in the centre of the upper back, removing potentially dangerous objects and, in extreme situations, using more forceful restraint.

It is important that all staff understand:

- Physical intervention cannot be used as a form of punishment
- Physical intervention must not be used when a less severe response can effectively resolve the situation
- The underlying function of the behaviour.

Physical intervention is not to be used as a response to:

- Property destruction
- School disruption
- Refusal to comply
- Verbal threats
- Leaving a classroom or the school, unless student safety is clearly threatened.

Any physical intervention made must:

- Be reasonable in the particular circumstances,
- Be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident
- Always be the minimum force needed to achieve the desired result, and
- Take into account the age, stature, disability, understanding and gender of the student.

Record keeping

Each instance involving the use of physical intervention must be formally documented. The following records must be maintained:

- Incident report in One School
- Health and Safety incident record
- Debriefing report for student and staff