Physical Restraint

1. Staff shall always attempt to de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation in an effort to allow the student to make choices and to control and be responsible for his/her behaviour. In order to provide a safe environment for our students, staff are sometimes required to use restraint in dealing with aggressive and/or violent behaviour with students who are not exercising control over their own behaviour. Under no circumstances should restraint be used in a punitive manner.

2. Where a student is identified as having special needs which may necessitate using physical restraint procedures, an IEP including the guidelines for the use of restraint is required. The parent/guardian must also sign the agreement for the use of physical restraint (See Appendix 1). Should further conditions be necessary these may be added to the Agreement at the discretion of the school administrator.

3. Where a student is identified as having special needs which may necessitate using physical restraint procedures, training of school based staff shall occur.

4. Two staff members should be involved in every restraint. If a second staff is not available immediately it is imperative that one be called as soon as possible. Each school should have trained backup personnel identified to serve on the Student Support Team.

5. A team leader should be designated and should communicate to others his/her perception of the situation so as to ensure that the most effective and least intrusive control possible is used.

6. The teacher or administrator will communicate each incident of restraint to the parents/guardians on the day of the incident. Arrangements for the child to leave the school will be made at the discretion of the administrator in consultation with the Student Support Team.

7. Due to the seriousness of these procedures all instances of restraint must be documented in a formal report (Appendix 2) and signed by the teacher, school administrator and other attending adults. The documentation must include the precipitating events, behaviours (those of both the student and the attending adults) during the restraint and the follow-up process of integrating the student back into the group. The copy of the report must be submitted to the Student Services Coordinator, the school administrator and appropriate Clinical Services personnel within 24 hours of the incident. The parent/guardian and other agencies, where appropriate, will receive written notification of the incident.

8. Whenever a restraint procedure is used two debriefings are required. One is with the student. In this debriefing the student is helped to understand what happened, possible consequences and provided opportunity to develop alternate strategies to handle such problems in the future. The second debriefing is with the program staff. The purpose of this debriefing is to provide support to the staff involved with the restraint. Each program should re-plan alternatives that will support staff who have been involved in a restraint. After each incident of restraint, program staff will evaluate patterns of behaviour and review the pro-active interventions employed.

9. After restraint, a formal meeting with the school administration, parents, student and teacher is required.

Attached: AGREEMENT FOR USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT (Appendix 1)
INCIDENT REPORT (Appendix 2)

THE PARK WEST SCHOOL DIVISION

AGREEMENT FOR USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Staff shall always attempt to de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation in an effort to allow the student to make choices and to control and be responsible for his/her behavior. I understand that in order to provide a safe environment staff are sometimes required to use restraint in dealing with aggressive and/or violent behavior with students who are not exercising control over their own behavior. A restraint is a technique used to physically hold and control a student due to their extreme behavior. Our purpose in employing a physical restraint will be within any one of the following three categories:

1. To ensure the safety of the student.
2. To ensure the safety of the staff and other students.
3. To prevent or end the dangerous destruction of property.

I have read the policy for the use of Physical Restraint and agree to the use of physical restraint, if and when required, in accordance with the provisions of the policy. I further agree to work collaboratively with school personnel in the necessary individualized education plan for my son or daughter.

_____ _____
Parent Date

_____ _____
Principal Date

INCIDENT REPORT: THE USE OF RESTRAINT

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Description of the incident must include the following information:
2. Precipitating incident/event and time
3. Description of incident/action taken and time
4. Decision/plan – time
5. Debriefing with student – time/alternate strategies
6. Debriefing with staff – time/alternate strategies
7. Meeting with parent/guardian and student - time (if a meeting is not arranged please explain the reasons why)

Principal: _____ School: _____

Signature of other staff present during the incident	Signature of others consulted regarding the incident
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____