



### **31. Physical Restraint and Managing Challenging Behaviour Policy**

#### **Policy**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Guidelines for Registered Schools in NZ on the use of Physical Restraints August 2017.

#### **Purpose**

To ensure staff and student wellbeing is at the heart of our policies and procedures while ensuring inclusive practices and a safe physical and emotional environment is provided for students.

#### **Scope**

This policy applies to and is to be followed by all our staff at the school.

All staff are to familiarise themselves with the MOE guidelines and we will undertake appropriate professional development

The Principal will advise the Board of any incidences where physical restraint has been used.

The Board will ensure that any incident of physical restraint is notified to parents or caregivers and reported to the MOE.

The Board will ensure that parents or caregivers are notified if physical restraint is an element in a student's individual plan.

Complaints regarding use of physical restraint in school will also follow our school's complaints procedure.

#### **Delegation**

The Board delegates to the Principal the responsibility for:

- Authorisation of staff members who are not teachers to use physical restraint
- Ensuring that adequate staff training and support is in place
- The reporting of incidence of physical restraints to parents, caregivers and the MOE
- Notification to parents and caregivers if an element of physical restraint is in a student's individual behaviour plan
- Keeping records of every instance of physical restraint of a student
- Monitoring the wellbeing of any student restrained and any staff member who has restrained a student

#### **Limitations and expectations**

Physical restraint is defined as using force to prevent, restrict or subdue the movement of a student's body or part of the student's body and is a serious intervention.

Staff will be well versed in prevention and de-escalation strategies used to limit the need to physically restrain a student.

Use of physical restraint is limited to teachers or authorised staff members and only where:

- There are reasonable grounds to believe that there is a serious and imminent risk to the safety of a student or of any other person, and
- The restraint used is reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances

(Authorised staff are employees authorised by their employer, the Board of Trustees to use physical restraint.)

Teachers and staff members who are authorised to physically restrain students shall receive suitable training and support.

Seclusion is prohibited. Seclusion is defined as placing a child in a room involuntarily, alone and from which they cannot (or believe they cannot) freely exit.

## Monitoring

- Reporting to the Board will form part of the Principal's report ensuring individual students can't be identified
- Principal will advise the Chairperson within 24 hours of any case where physical restraint has occurred
  
- Policy will be reviewed every 3 years

## Relevant Policies and Document

Procedures re Use of Physical Restraint

## Associated legislation

*Education and Training Act 2020*

*Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2017*

*Health and Safety at Work Act 2015*

*Bill of Rights 1990*