



## **SECLUSION AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT**

### **Rationale:**

To maintain safety of students and staff while at Whangārei Boys' High School. Seclusion is not to be used to manage challenging behaviour. Physical restraint is to be avoided and used as a last resort only.

### **Purpose:**

To provide staff members with education, support and resources to avoid physical restraint towards students at Whangarei Boys High School.

### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all staff.

### **Guidelines:**

1. As seclusion has the potential to be traumatic for those involved, no student is to be secluded at Whangārei Boys' High School.
2. Physical restraint has legal risks if a student is harmed. More importantly, it can have negative emotional and physical effects on the student.
3. Staff are able to exercise physical restraint if there is a serious and imminent risk to safety. The physical restraint must be reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances. Examples of this situation are:
  - A student is moving in with a weapon or something that could be used as a weapon
  - Breaking up a fight
  - A student is throwing furniture or breaking glass close to where it could injure others
  - Preventing a student from running onto a road.
4. For students who are showing regular high risk behaviour, an individualised plan will be created to assist those working with the student. The student's guardian will have involvement with this plan, having input to effective de-escalation techniques.
5. If a student needs to be restrained, staff need to notify the Principal as soon as possible. All incidences of physical restraint will then be entered into the MOE



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database (unless an Individual Behaviour Plan is in place). Parents must also be informed. The Principal will inform the Board of all instances of restraint.

- 6 Staff are to refer to the document “Guidance for NZ schools on Behaviour Management to Minimise Physical Restraint” (MoE 2017).

### **Related policies:**

1. Behaviour Management
2. Drugs Alcohol and Other Mind Altering Substances
3. Extra – Territoriality
4. Safe School
5. Surveillance Search & Seizure

### **References or Sources:**

- Guidelines for Registered Schools in New Zealand on the Use of Physical Restraint 2017
- Education Act 2017

### **Review Details:**

<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Reviewed by</b>
Oct 2021	SMK
<b>Review cycle:</b> 3 years	<b>Due date for Review:</b> Oct 2024

### **Management Contact:**

- Principal