



SECLUSION AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Rationale:

This Board is committed to a supportive and caring school environment where all students and staff are kept safe from harm and treated with dignity.

Purpose:

To provide staff members with education, support and resources to avoid physical restraint towards students at Whangārei 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. Except as authorised under this policy, no staff member may use any form of physical restraint on our students.

Our Principal, teachers, and Board-authorised staff members can only physically restrain a student as a last resort, where:

- The use of physical restraint is necessary to prevent imminent harm to the student or another person
 - There is a reasonable belief that there is no other option available in the circumstances to prevent the harm, and
 - The physical restraint is reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances
3. 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 into effective de-escalation techniques. The Principal will recommend eligible non-teaching staff to the Board for authorisation to use physical restraint according to requirements of the 2023 rules. Only the Board can authorise non-teaching staff members to use physical restraint.



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- 5 All staff subject to this policy are trained to confidently apply prevention and de-escalation strategies, limiting the need to restrain a student physically according to the 2023 Rules and the relevant guidelines.
- 6 Staff are to refer to the document 'Aramai He Tētēkura' a guide to understanding distress and minimising the use of physical restraint.
- 7 The Principal shall ensure that:
 - The implementation and compliance of this policy, including the completion of best practice training by all staff who are authorised to use physical restraint
 - Operational compliance with the Education and Training Act 2020 and the 2023 Rules
 - All physical restraint incidents are immediately reported at the next Board meeting
 - The Board is informed of all relevant information (risks, trends, and impacts), and
 - All non-teaching staff who may use physical restraint on a student have been authorised by the board.
- 8 The Board shall monitor the uses of physical restraint, looking for trends and any action that could be taken at the governance level to support reducing such incidents.

Related policies:

1. Behaviour Management
2. Extra – Territoriality
3. Safe School
4. Surveillance Search & Seizure

References or Sources:

- Education and Training Act 2020 (Sections 99-101)
- Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2023
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015



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Review Details:

Review Date	Reviewed by
May 2024	SMK
Review cycle: 1 year	Due date for Review: May 2025

Management Contact:

- Principal