

# D8 Managing challenging behaviour and physical restraint policy

## Outcome statement

To minimise the effect of challenging behaviour, the board shall ensure that effective procedures are in place around the management of student behaviour and the use of physical restraint.

## Scoping

This policy applies throughout the school.

All staff are required to familiarise themselves with Ministry of Education [Guidelines](#) for registered schools in New Zealand on the use of physical restraint and to undertake appropriate professional development.

The board will ensure that any incident of physical restraint is notified to parents or caregivers and reported to the Ministry of Education.

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

Complainants with concerns regarding use of physical restraint must follow the school's prescribed concerns and complaints procedure.

## Delegations

The board delegates to the principal:

- Responsibility for ensuring that adequate staff training and support is in place
- The reporting of incidents of physical restraint to parents, caregivers and the Ministry of Education
- Notification to parents and caregivers if an element of physical restraint is in a student's individual behaviour plan

## Limitations and expectations

- Physical restraint is defined as using physical force to prevent, restrict or subdue the movement of a student's body or part of the student's body against the student's will and is a serious intervention
- Staff shall 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:
  - o the physical restraint is necessary to prevent imminent harm to the student or another person; and
  - o the teacher or authorised staff member reasonably believes that there is no other option available in the circumstances to prevent the harm; and
  - o the physical restraint is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances
- Authorised staff are employees trained and authorised by their employer (the board) to use physical restraint
- Teachers and staff members who are authorised to physically restrain students shall receive suitable training and support
- Corporal punishment and seclusion of students is prohibited. Seclusion of students is defined as placing a child or student in a room involuntarily, alone and from which they cannot (or believe they cannot) freely exit.

## Associated legislation

[Education and Training Act 2020](#)

[Education \(Physical Restraint\) Rules 2017](#)

[Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#)

## Associated procedures

Physical Restraint Procedure

Concerns and Complaints Procedure

Anti Bullying Procedure

Behaviour Management Procedure

Managing More Extreme Behaviour Incidents Procedure  
Adult conduct expectation procedure  
Stand down, Suspension and Exclusion Procedure  
Surrender and retention of property procedure

## Monitoring

Instances, matters or risks in relation to this policy shall form part of the principal's report to every board meeting, taking care that individual students cannot be identified.

The board shall monitor the use of physical restraint, looking for trends and any action that could be taken at governance level to support reducing such incidents.

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Reviewed: September 2022

Next review: September 2025

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