



AD ALTIORA | MAURI ORA

POLICY: Rangitikei College Board

Physical Restraint policy

Rationale

The Board is committed to a supportive and caring school environment where all students and staff are kept safe from harm and treated with dignity. It acknowledges that on occasion the physical restraint of a student may be necessary. This policy is to ensure that such restraint is consistent with our school pouwhenua and complies with statutory requirements.

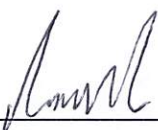
Guidelines

1. Except as authorised under this policy, no staff member may use any form of physical restraint on our students.
2. The principal, teachers, and Board-authorised staff members can only physically restrain a student as a last resort, where:
 - a. the use of physical restraint is necessary to prevent imminent harm to the student or another person,
 - b. there is a reasonable belief that there is no other option available in the circumstances to prevent the harm, and
 - c. the physical restraint is reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances.
3. The board delegates to the Principal responsibility for:
 - a. developing and implementing procedures and practices to prevent, plan for, and respond to student distress that meet the requirements of the Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2023 and its amendments ("the 2023 Rules"), and
 - b. recommending eligible non-teaching staff to the board for authorisation to use physical restraint according to requirements of the 2023 Rules.
4. Only the board can authorise non-teaching staff members to use physical restraint.
5. All staff subject to this policy are to be informed by the Principal of the requirements on an annual basis, and, where necessary, trained to confidently apply prevention and de-escalation strategies, thereby limiting the need to restrain a student physically according to the 2023 Rules and the relevant guidelines.
6. The principal shall report to the Board:
 - a. on compliance, or the actions being taken to ensure compliance with this policy, the legislation, and the 2023 Rules on reducing student distress and use of physical restraint, and
 - b. at every Board meeting, all incidents, matters, or risks relating to this policy, ensuring that the non-identification and privacy of individual students is maintained.
7. The Board shall monitor the use of physical restraint, looking for trends and any action that could be taken at the governance level to support reducing such incidents.

Definitions (as defined in the Education and Training Act 2020):

- **Physical restraint** is 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.
- **Harm** means harm to the health, safety, or well-being of the student or another person, including any significant emotional distress suffered by the student or the other person.
- **Authorised staff member** means an employee of a registered school who is trained and authorised by the employer to use physical restraint in accordance with Section 99 of the Act.

Presiding Member:



Date:

24/5/2023

Next review date: May 2026

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Education and Training Act 2020 (Sections 99-101)
2. Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2023
3. School 'Physical Restraint procedures' (to be developed by June 2023)