



MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

Outcome statement

To acknowledge the dignity of all and 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 and formation including on the Catholic social teaching principles of human dignity, human equality, the common good and preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.

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, formation 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.
- recommending 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.

Limitations and expectations

- All children will be acknowledged as being made in the image and likeness of God; therefore, they are invaluable and worthy of equal respect as a member of the human family.
- The common good will be exercised in terms of respecting the rights and responsibilities of all people.
- 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:
 - the physical restraint is necessary to prevent imminent harm to the student or another person; and
 - the teacher or authorised staff member reasonably believes that there is no other option available in the circumstances to prevent the harm; and
 - 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.
- all physical restraint incidents are immediately reported at the next board meeting.
- Corporal punishment and seclusion of students is prohibited. It diminishes their dignity and the dignity of the person enacting it. 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 2024](#)

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

Associated procedures and supporting documentation

[Principles of Catholic Social Teaching](#)

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the boards:


- Health and safety policy
- Privacy policy

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.

Reviewed:	Next Review: September 2026
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Signed (Presiding Member): 	Date of Board Meeting reviewed and accepted: Wednesday 3 May 2023
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