

# **Papakura High School**

## **N5.3 Reducing student distress and use of physical restraint Policy**

### **Rationale**

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

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.

### **Purpose**

1. To make Papakura High School a safe place for students and staff.
2. To provide guidelines for staff in using physical restraint. To provide a robust reporting system from incident to the Board, whanau and MoE which is fair and transparent.
3. To fulfil legal requirements of the Education Act.

### **Delegations**

The board delegates to the principal responsibility for:

- 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
- 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.

### **Expectations**

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.

### **Board**

The board requires:

- compliance with the 2023 Rules, and
- an evidence-based assurance from their principal that this policy is being followed.

### **Principal**

The principal shall ensure:


- 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.

Reviewed: Term 2, 2023

Next Review date: Term 4, 2024

Signed:

Designation:  Chair, Board of Trustees

### Related procedures/supporting documentation

Education & Training Act 2020

Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

Crimes Act 1961

Education Physical Restraint Rules 2023

Template - Restraint - MoE Report

Template - Restraint - Parents or Caregivers, Student Report

Template - Restraint - Staff Debrief Report

Template - Restraint - Staff Report