



TAIERI COLLEGE

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

Rationale:	Student and staff well-being at Taieri College is at the heart of the 'Physical Restraint' policy. Inclusive practices and a safe physical and emotional environment are of greatest importance for all students.
Legislation:	Education & Training Act 2020 (Sections 99-101) Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2023 Health & Safety at Work Act 2015 Bill of Rights Act 1990

The aim is to strengthen good practice and minimise the need to use physical restraint. The policy provides staff with advice about safe ways to manage potentially dangerous situations when a student may need to be physically restrained. These include preventative or de-escalation techniques to avoid the need to physically restrain a student.

1. 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.
2. Physical restraint is defined as using 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.
3. Staff shall be well versed in prevention and de-escalation strategies used to limit the need to physically restrain a student.
4. Use of physical restraint is limited to teachers or authorised staff members and only where:
 - a. there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is a serious and imminent risk to the safety of a student or of any other person, including harm caused by significant emotional distress and;
 - b. the restraint used is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances.
 - c. there is reasonable belief there is no other option in the circumstances to prevent harm.
5. Taieri College will use the Incident of Physical Restraint Form if there is an incident of physical restraint at the school and send the completed form to: physicalrestraint.change@education.govt.nz

6. Any incident of physical restraint is to be recorded (and kept for a minimum of 10 years from the date of last action). Parents/whānau are to be notified within three school days, and the incident is reported to the Ministry of Education. Refer to Physical Restraint Guidelines.
7. The Principal shall ensure all physical restraint incidents are immediately reported at the next board meeting and the board is informed of all relevant information (risks, trends, and impacts).
8. After any incident of physical restraint, the appropriate staff is to debrief the incident, focusing on the lead-up to it, the different interventions used that were unsuccessful in de-escalating the behaviour, and what could have been done differently. Parents/whānau will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate in a debrief within three working days of the incident or later by mutual agreement.
9. The Board shall monitor the use of physical restraint, looking for trends and any action that could be taken at a governance level to support reducing such incidents.
10. Seclusion of students is prohibited. The 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.

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Date to be Reviewed: May 2024	Updated by: D Hunter	Approved by: Board of Trustees