

TAURANGA GIRLS' COLLEGE SCHOOL BOARD
OPERATIONAL POLICY 12
Student Distress / Physical Restraint

POLICY 12 REDUCING STUDENT DISTRESS AND USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Outcome Statement

The Board is committed to a supportive and caring College environment where all students and staff are kept safe from harm and treated with dignity.

Policy

Except as authorised under this policy, no staff member may use any form of physical restraint on the school students. Only the Principal and Board-authorised staff members can physically restrain a student as a last resort, provided that:

- the use of physical restraint is necessary to prevent imminent harm to the student or another person
- there is a reasonable belief that no other option to prevent harm is available in the circumstances
- the physical restraint is reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances.

Delegations

The Board delegates to the Principal:

- the responsibility for developing and implementing procedures and practices to prevent, plan for, and respond to student distress in accordance with the requirements of the Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2023 and its amendments ("the 2023 Rules") and
- providing to the Board a list of recommended, eligible non-teaching staff to be authorised to use physical restraint according to the requirements of the 2023 Rules
- only the Board can authorise non-teaching staff to use physical restraint.
- the reporting of incidents of physical restraint to parents, caregivers, and the Ministry of Education
- notification to whānau if an element of physical restraint is in a student's individual behaviour plan.

Expectations and Limitations

- All staff subject to this policy shall be well-versed in prevention and de-escalation strategies used to limit the need to physically restrain a student.
- All incidents of physical restraint shall be notified to parents and reported to the next Board meeting by the Principal.
- Corporal punishment and seclusion of students is prohibited. Seclusion of a student is defined as placing a child or student in a room involuntarily, alone, and from which they cannot (or believe they cannot) freely exit.

Definitions

- **Physical restraint** is the use of physical force to prevent, restrict, or subdue the movement of a student's body or part of a 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 the school who is trained and authorised by the Board to use physical restraint in accordance with Section 99 of the Act

Relevant Legislation

[Education and Training Act 2020 \(Sections 99 – 101\)](#)

[Education \(Physical Restraint\) Rules 2023](#)

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