



Procedures for Managing challenging behaviour and physical restraint

Operational Policy D8 Managing challenging behaviour and physical restraint

Physical Restraint

Huiakama School has procedures in place for managing student behaviour and guidelines around the care and management of students. The key point is to safeguard the wellbeing of students, staff, and others whenever behaviour management issues arise.

Staff use de-escalation techniques (see the Ministry guidelines below) if a student's behaviour is becoming out of control and/or poses a danger to themselves or others. However, in an emergency situation, it may be necessary to use physical restraint. This is a serious intervention and only used when there is a high likelihood that the student will injure a staff member, another student, themselves, or others. It may be necessary to move people out of the area to de-escalate the situation and keep them safe. In some cases, it may be necessary to involve the police.

All teaching staff are authorised to apply restraint. Non-teaching staff can apply restraint if they have been authorised, in writing, by the board.

Guidelines on the use of physical restraint

The Ministry of Education's Guidelines for Registered Schools in New Zealand on the Use of Physical Restraint offer useful techniques for preventing and/or de-escalating behaviour problems before they reach a critical point. The guidelines also provide clear guidance on how to use physical restraint if prevention and de-escalation are unsuccessful, as well as outlining what types of physical restraint must be avoided, and incident forms.

If physical restraint is warranted, the level of restraint should be proportional to the level of risk the student or their behaviour poses, and should end as soon as the safety of everyone involved is assured. The student's physical and psychological state should be monitored during the restraint. The student, and the person who applied the physical restraint, should be monitored for signs of distress or shock in the aftermath of the incident.

The school holds a debrief after the incident, examining the events leading up to it, the interventions used, and what could have been done differently. The Ministry of Education, and the board, is notified of any incident involving physical restraint.

Parents/caregivers whose child was involved in the incident should be notified as soon as practically possible. They should be invited to offer suggestions to avoid the use of restraint in the management of their child's behaviour for the future. Any complaints from parents should be dealt with through the school's complaints process, and the Ministry of Education contacted for advice, if necessary.

Students with high-risk behaviours should have an Individual Behaviour Plan in place. Key staff members and parents/caregivers are involved in the development of the plan. All staff working with the particular student are fully briefed on the agreed protocols in the plan, and all staff are made aware that there is an Individual Behaviour Plan in place for the student.

Monitoring the use of physical restraint

The Ministry of Education requires all incidents of restraint to be reported using an incident physical restraint form

The principal, or delegate, monitors the use of physical restraint and collates information about any incidents. The principal shares this information with the board through the principal's report at board meetings (in a public-excluded session).

Refer to MOE Guidelines for Registered Schools in New Zealand on the Use of Physical Restraint

<https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/School/Managing-and-supporting-students/Guidance-for-New-Zealand-Schools-on-Behaviour-Mgmt-to-Minimise-Physical.pdf#page=17>



Management of Behaviour Procedures

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Managing behaviour relies on consistently applying both our school's behaviour plan and strategies to promote positive student behaviour. We also expect high standards of **conduct** from our school community, which includes modelling good behaviour for students.

At Huiakama School:

- Staff, including relievers, coaches, and tutors etc, maintain positive learning environments and relationships with students.
- We make a clear statement of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour known to all staff, parents, and students.
- All members of the school, including the students themselves, have a responsibility to recognise **bullying** and to take action when they are aware of it happening.
- Staff manage challenging behaviour and use de-escalation techniques if a student's behaviour is becoming out of control and/or poses a danger to themselves or others. Physical restraint is used only in an emergency situation, and only according to our physical restraint guidelines.
- The school actions the procedures outlined by the Ministry of Education for the stand-down, suspension, or exclusion of students, in cases of extreme and persistent behaviour.
- Individual programmes and strategies for students with particular behaviour difficulties are devised with parents and staff, and outside agencies if necessary, and these students may be dealt with outside the school's behaviour plan.
- Seclusion and corporal punishment are not used at this school.

Parents' concerns about student behaviour

If a parent has a concern about an incident at school, the parent should contact the school and the school will deal with the concern. The school believes that parents should not approach other students or parents about school behaviour incidents. This also applies to incidents that occur out of school time or off school grounds but when students are still connected with the school e.g. at EOTC events, while wearing school uniform, or travelling to and from school.

