

## TIRIMOANA SCHOOL PHYSICAL RESTRAINT and SECLUSION POLICY

This policy should be read in conjunction with 'Guidelines for Registered Schools in NZ on the use of Physical Restraints August 2017' and the 'Education and Training Act 2020'.

### RATIONALE:

Tirimoana as a PB4L-SW-RP 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.**

### PURPOSE:

Student and staff wellbeing is at the heart of these guidelines. Inclusive practices and a safe physical and emotional environment are of greatest importance for all students.

To ensure that staff members are given the support and resources to de-escalate and avoid situations requiring physical restraint.

### **Definitions:**

#### **Physical Restraint:**

The Act defines 'physical restraint' 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.

Physical restraint is a serious intervention.

#### **Seclusion:**

Seclusion means placing a child or student in a room involuntarily, alone and from which they cannot freely exit, or believe they cannot freely exit.

#### **Serious and imminent risk to the safety**

Refers to situations involving serious threat of physical harm to a person or persons

### GUIDELINES:

The guidelines aim to strengthen good practice and minimise the need to use physical restraint.

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 behaviour management, and to undertake appropriate professional development.
2. Staff shall be well versed in prevention and de-escalation strategies used to limit the need to physically restrain a student
3. Use of physical restraint is limited to trained teachers or staff members who have been authorised by the principal and only where:
  - there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is a serious and **imminent** risk to health, safety or wellbeing of a student or of any other person, and
  - the teacher or staff member believes there is no other option available in the circumstances, and
  - the restraint used is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances
4. Individual Behaviour Plans (IBP) will be developed in partnership with parents, caregivers and professionals for those students that present a serious risk of injury to themselves and others.

5. Any incident of physical restraint is to be notified to parents or caregivers, and reported to the Board of Trustees and Ministry of Education on the official notification forms.
6. After any incident of physical restraint, the appropriate staff are 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.
7. 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.
8. Seclusion of students is prohibited. 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.

Forms and template are to be downloaded from the link below;

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