



WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL POLICY

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

Policy No: 5.13
(NAG 5)

INTRODUCTION	1	Whanganui High School is required to provide a safe, physical and emotional environment for all students and staff. This policy should be read in conjunction with the "Guidelines for Registered Schools in New Zealand on the use of Physical Restraints August 2017".
OBJECTIVES	1	Whanganui High School will follow these guidelines comprehensively.
GUIDELINES	1	<p>Whanganui High School adheres to the principles outlined by the Ministry of Education with regard to physical restraint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical restraint is a serious intervention. • If there is an alternative to physically restraining a student, it should be used. • All schools are required to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students and staff. • The Education Act 1989 provides for the circumstances when teachers and authorised staff members may physically restrain a student. • Students' rights are protected under the Bill of Rights Act 1990.
	2	<p>Physical restraint is the use of physical force by a teacher or authorized staff member to prevent, restrict, or subdue the movement of a student's body or part of a student's body.</p> <p>Physical restraint of a student can be used in situations where the teacher or authorised staff member reasonably believes that the safety of the student or of any other person is at serious and imminent risk, and the restraint used is reasonable and proportionate given the circumstances.</p> <p>Note that the use of seclusion in schools is banned under the Act.</p>
	3	<p>Use physical restraint only where safety is at a serious and imminent risk, in situations such as for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student is moving in with a weapon, or something that could be used as a weapon, and is clearly intent on using violence towards another person. • A student is physically attacking another person, or is about to. • A student is throwing furniture, computers, or breaking glass close to others who would be injured by it. • A student is putting themselves in danger, for example, running onto the road or trying to harm themselves. <p>In situations where safety is serious and there is an imminent risk, the use of physical restraint must be proportionate; only use the minimum amount of force necessary to respond to the situation and use physical restraint only for as long as is needed to ensure the safety of everyone involved.</p>
	4	<p>The following restraints may not be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A restraint that inhibits the student's breathing, speaking or main method of communication (for example, those who communicate through sign language). • Prone (face-down) physical restraint, pressure points and pain holds. • Tackling, sitting, lying or kneeling on a student. • Pressure on chest or neck. • Hyperextension of joints. • Headlocks. • Using force to drag a student who is resisting. • Restraint when moving a student from one place to another – trying to get them into a van or taxi when they are in an escalated state, as this may make things worse.

	5	<p>Example where behaviour does not pose a serious or imminent risk to safety and where physical restraint should not be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruptive classroom behaviour that is disrupting the classroom or not putting anyone in danger of being hurt. • Refusal to comply with an adult's request. • Responding to verbal threats. • Stopping a student from leaving a classroom or school without permission. • To coerce, discipline, or punish a student. • Stopping a student from damaging or removing property, unless there is a risk to safety.
EXPECTED OUTCOME		Whanganui High School provides a safe, physical and emotional environment for all students and staff.
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION		<p>Education Act 1989 Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2017 Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 Bill of Rights 1990</p>
EVALUATION		The Board, in association with the Principal, will review this policy annually in accordance with the School's quality management cycle.

Approved by the Board

Signed Chairperson:

Date:

Signed Principal:

Date:

29/10/18

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