

PROCEDURE 21: PROHIBITING USE OF FORCE

The use of physical force for disciplinary purposes is prohibited under law. Employees are only to use physical restraint / physical removal with a child if they believe on reasonable grounds, based on the information they have or the situation, that the child poses a threat to themselves or another person at Whareorino School.

Any physical restraint should be sufficient to stop the child from harming themselves or another person and should stop once the employee is satisfied the child no longer poses a risk to themselves or another person. If the child needs to be physically removed from the playground or classroom, the employee should only do so as a last resort. The employee should attempt to / consider removing themselves and the other children or seeking the assistance of the principal or deputy principal, before physically removing the child/ren concerned.

At any time that a child needs to be physically restrained or removed from the class or the playground, the employee must inform the principal or deputy principal. A written account of what transpired must be submitted to the principal within 24 hours of the incident. Any child that needs to be physically restrained or removed will have their parents or caregivers contacted as soon as is possible and practical, no later than 24 hours after the event, and in writing if the parent cannot be contacted by phone or spoken to in person; refer to *School Procedure 19: Physical Restraint*.

Education and Training Act 2020: ‘no corporal punishment in early childhood services or registered schools’.

To comply with Sections 99 to 101 of the Education and Training Act 2020, the school board and all employees of the Whareorino School Board will be aware of the following and comply with these legislative requirements:

- *teachers and authorised staff members must not physically restrain unless it is necessary to prevent imminent harm to the health, safety or wellbeing of a child or young person, or to another person, and they reasonably believe there is no other option available in the circumstances. Physical contact for guiding, comforting, or communicating with a student, is not restraint, and is not restricted by the Act, if the student does not resist.*

and,

No person who is supervising or controlling, on behalf of the Whareorino School Board, or on behalf of managers of the school:

- *shall use force by way of correction or punishment, towards any student or child enrolled at or attending the school, institution, or service.*

Supporting Documents:

- Procedure 01: Concerns and Complaints
- Procedure 17: Student Behaviour Management
- Procedure 20: Physical Restraint of Students
- Procedure 22: Surrender and Retention of Property and Searches of Students
- Guidelines for Registered Schools in New Zealand on the Use of Physical Restraint (August 2017)
<https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/News/2017-Physical-Restraint-Rules-2017.pdf>



PRINCIPAL

Dated: February 1, 2022