

Otamatea Christian School

Physical Restraint Policy

Scope

The scope of this Policy relates to section 139D of the Education Act 2020, Education (physical restraint) rules 2017, which came into effect on the 19th of May 2017.

Reference

Guidance for New Zealand Schools on Behaviour Management to Minimise Physical Restraint October 2016.

Link <http://www.education.govt.nz/assets/uploads/guidance-for-New-Zealand-School-on-Behaviour-Mgmt-to-Minimise-physical-....pdf>

Policy

1 Physical restraint

Physical restraint should always be the last resort, refer to the physical restraint procedures. Non-teaching staff must be given permission to use physical restraint, in writing by the board before they can use physical restraint.

2 Correction

The Principal, staff and persons supervising or controlling students on behalf of the management of Otamatea Christian school will not use force by way of correction or punishment towards students enrolled or attending the school.

3 Seclusion

Seclusion for students is banned, refer to the physical Restraint Procedures.

Note: You may need to physically help students

Temporary physical contact, such as a hand on the arm, back or shoulders to remove a student from a situation to a safer place.

Younger children, especially in their first year of school, sometimes need additional help. For example, you may “shepherd” a group of younger children from one place to another. You may hold the hand of a young child who is happy to have their hand held for a short time. You may pick a child up to comfort briefly. This is also not restraint.

Use physical restraint only where there is “imminent danger of physical injury”

The student’s behaviour poses an imminent danger of physical injury to other students, staff, themselves or others.

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, for example, throwing furniture, computers, or breaking glass close to others who would be injured if hit.