



SECLUSION AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

National Administration Guideline 5- Health and Safety

Background to Policy

This policy is to give clarification regarding seclusion and physical restraint within the school as per the Education and Training Act update dated 2020.

Policy Statement

This policy outlines RidgeView School's commitment to the safety and wellbeing of students.

Definitions

Seclusion as defined in the Education and Training Act 2020: 'Seclude' in relation to a student or child, means to place a student involuntarily in a room from which they cannot or believe they cannot freely exit.

Physically restrain as defined in the Education and Training Act 2020: 'Physically restrain' in relation to a student, means to use physical force to prevent, restrict or subdue the movement of the student's body or part of their body.

The RidgeView Board delegate authority for restraint to the principal. The principal may delegate authority for restraint to a teacher or teacher-aide.

Policy Implementation

1. Seclusion as defined by the Education and Training Act 2020 is illegal and never to be carried out by any persons within the school premises or at any stage off-site whilst being seen as a representative of RidgeView School.
2. 'Time out' can be used if the student voluntarily takes themselves to an acceptable space to calm down or is prompted by a teacher to do so. The child or student must be aware that they can freely exit the space at any stage.
3. A person who is employed or engaged by the school's board must not use force, by way of correction or punishment, towards any student enrolled at or attending RidgeView School.
4. Staff use de-escalation techniques 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

RIDGEVIEW SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

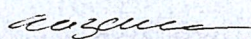


7. Parents/Caregivers whose child was involved in the incident should be notified as soon as practically possible. They should be invited to offer suggestions to avoid the use of restraint in the management of their child's behaviour. Any complaints from parents should be dealt with through the school's complaints process, and the Ministry of Education contacted for advice, if necessary.
8. 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.

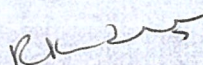
This policy will be reviewed as per the Board's Effectiveness Review Programme

Confirmed by the Board on: 08 NOV 2022 (date)

The planned review date will be: NOVEMBER 2025 (date)



Presiding Member



Principal