



# Mount Roskill Intermediate School

## Policy: Restraint

### Statement of Intent:

The Education Act 1989, including the Education Act Update 2017, provides for the circumstances when teachers and authorised staff members may physically restrain a student. In exercising these powers, teachers and authorised staff members must act reasonably and proportionately in the circumstances to achieve a safe environment for students and staff

### The Mount Roskill Intermediate School Board of Trustees will take all reasonable steps to ensure that:

1. Physical restraint is used only as a serious intervention within the Statutory Guidelines
2. A safe physical and emotional environment for students and staff exists that supports learning
3. All staff know the correct procedures to take when there is escalation of potentially dangerous behaviour

### Physical Restraint is defined as:

Physical restraint is when a school staff member uses their own body to deliberately limit the movement of a student.

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.

The Act limits the use of physical restraint by teachers or authorised staff members in schools to situations where:

- » the teacher or 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 in the circumstances

The use of Physical Restraint affects the wellbeing of both the student and the staff member who applies it. It is associated with injury and increased emotional trauma for both

### Policy Statement

1. The School will have processes in place for de escalation of behaviour and procedures for responding to students who are posing serious and imminent risk to themselves or to others
2. Behaviour Plans will be signed off by the MoE, as planned de-escalation for identified students
3. If there is an alternative to physically restraining a student the alternative will be used
4. The School is committed to maintaining and increasing staff awareness of how to de escalate potentially dangerous behaviour
5. Teachers and authorised staff who are designated to physically restrain students are suitably supported and trained for this task
6. Measures are in place for the reporting, documentation and debriefing of all use of restraint
7. This Policy will be available to families and the community