



ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

REDUCING STUDENT | ĀKONGA DISTRESS AND USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

Outcome Statement

This board is committed to a supportive and caring school | kura environment where all students | ākonga and staff | kaimahi are kept safe from harm and the dignity of each individual as made in the image and likeness of God is recognised.

Except as authorised under this policy, no staff member | kaimahi may use any form of physical restraint on our students | ākonga.

Our principal | tumuaki, teachers | kaiako, and board-authorised staff members | kaimahi can only physically restrain a student | ākonga as a last resort, where:

- the use of physical restraint is necessary to prevent imminent harm to the student | ākonga or another person,
- there is a reasonable belief that there is no other option available in the circumstances to prevent the harm, and
- the physical restraint is reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances.

Delegations

The board delegates to the principal | tumuaki responsibility for:

- developing and implementing procedures and practices to prevent, plan for, and respond to student | ākonga distress that meet the requirements of the Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2023 and its amendments (“the 2023 Rules”), and
- recommending eligible non-teaching staff | kaimahi to the board for authorisation to use physical restraint according to requirements of the 2023 Rules.

Only the board can authorise non-teaching staff | kaimahi members to use physical restraint.

Expectations

All staff | kaimahi subject to this policy are trained to confidently apply prevention and de-escalation strategies, limiting the need to restrain a student | ākonga physically according to the 2023 Rules and the relevant guidelines.

Board

The board requires:

- compliance with the 2023 Rules, and
- an evidence-based assurance from their principal that this policy is being followed.

Principal | Tumuaki

The principal | tumuaki shall ensure:

- the implementation and compliance of this policy, including the completion of best practice training by all staff | kaimahi who are authorised to use physical restraint,
- operational compliance with the Education and Training Act 2020 and the 2023 Rules,
- all physical restraint incidents are immediately reported at the next board meeting,
- the board is informed of all relevant information (risks, trends, and impacts), and

- all non-teaching staff | kaimahi who may use physical restraint on a student | ākonga have been authorised by the board.

Monitoring

The principal | tumuaki shall report to the board:

- on compliance, or the actions being taken to ensure compliance with this policy, the legislation, and the 2023 Rules on reducing student | ākonga distress and use of physical restraint, and
- at every board meeting, all incidents, matters, or risks relating to this policy, ensuring that the non-identification and privacy of individual students | ākonga is maintained.

The board shall monitor the use of physical restraint, looking for trends and any action that could be taken at the governance level to support reducing such incidents.

Definitions	<p>As defined in the Education and Training Act 2020:</p> <p>Physical restraint is using physical force to prevent, restrict or subdue the movement of a student's ākonga body or part of the student's ākonga body against the student's ākonga will.</p> <p>Harm means harm to the health, safety, or well-being of the student ākonga or another person, including any significant emotional distress suffered by the student ākonga or the other person.</p> <p>Authorised staff member kaimahi means an employee of a registered school kura who is trained and authorised by the employer to use physical restraint in accordance with Section 99 of the Act.</p>
Legislation	<p>Education and Training Act 2020 (Sections 99-101)</p> <p>Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2023</p> <p>Health and Safety at Work Act 2015</p>
This policy is to be read in conjunction with the boards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety policy • Child protection policy • Privacy policy • Emergency procedures • Reporting and monitoring policy and procedures • Concerns and complaints process
Procedures/supporting documentation	<p>The Ministry of Education's Physical Restraint Guidelines</p> <p>Appendix 1 of the Rules</p> <p>Suggested procedures/practices that cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the authorisation process • reducing and de-escalating student distress • training and support for staff • notifying and reporting on instances of physical restraint • monitoring the use of physical restraint
Review Cycle	Annual

Approved: 2 May 2023	Reviewed: 9 December 2025
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