



Newsletter 2 – Term 3 – September 2017

5th September 2017

Tēna koutou katoa / Greetings to you all

Physical Restraint

New Rules for using physical restraint in schools have been signed by the Secretary of Education and promulgated to schools on 21 August 2017.

The Guidelines on the use of physical restraint will be promulgated by the Ministry of Education this month.

I have been a member of the National Advisory for the last two years that has developed the *Guidelines for Registered Schools in New Zealand on the Use of Physical Restraint*. Hamish Allan-Caney our behaviour specialist teacher was a member of the working group that developed the *Understanding Behaviour Responding Safely* training modules for schools. This training is facilitated by the Ministry of Education to schools on request.

New Rules have come into force covering the use of physical restraint in schools and there is a new requirement on schools to report to the Ministry of Education whenever physical restraint is used.

Section 139AC of the Education Act (Update) Amendment Act 2017 says that a teacher or authorised staff member can use physical restraint if they reasonably believe the safety of the student or of any other person is at serious or imminent risk and the physical restraint must be reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances.

Situations where it may be appropriate include:

- Breaking up a fight
- Stopping a student from moving in with a weapon
- Stopping a student who is throwing furniture close to others who could be injured
- Preventing a student from running onto a road.
- Any situation where there is imminent or actual danger to self or others.

The Rules have requirements for schools to notify, monitor and report on the use of physical restraint.

Physical restraint is a last resort intervention and when it is used schools now need to notify the Ministry of Education and the board of trustees. This new requirement will allow the Ministry to provide support to schools and students and update the rules and guidelines if needed to address emerging issues.

Internal incident reports where any physical intervention has been applied are to be held on the student's file and made available to parents/caregivers.

Parents/caregivers must be informed on the day, or as soon as practicable, that a physical intervention has occurred with their child. We intend to do this in writing via email within 24 hours.

Allenvale School has consistently recorded all behavioural incidents including where physical restraint may have been applied and reported on incidents to the board of trustees.

All staff are currently trained in *Safe Crisis Management* that has an emphasis on de-escalation techniques and physical intervention as a last resort. If physical intervention is part of a Behaviour Safety Plan, it is agreed, recorded in the plan and signed by parents/caregivers.

As we transition from Safe Crisis Management (SCM) to the Ministry's new behaviour modules, *Understanding Behaviour, Responding Safely (UBRS)* and *Managing Actual or Potential Aggression (MAPA)*, we intend to train those persons in classes in MAPA where physical restraint may be an aspect of the student's agreed Behaviour Safety Plan.

A minority of students at Allenvale have an agreed Behaviour Safety Plan. Some of these students may have physical restraint as an aspect of their Behaviour Safety Plan.

If you have any questions in regard to these new Rules, please contact me.

Ngā mihi nui



Graeme H Daniel MNZM
Principal