

Big Rock Primary School Board of Trustees
Policy
Physical restraint and seclusion

RATIONALE:

The safety and protection of children and staff is at the heart of this policy. Seclusion and the use of physical restraint is to be avoided.

PURPOSE:

To ensure that staff members are given the support and resources to de-escalate and avoid situations requiring physical restraint.

To ensure that all children are treated with dignity and respect.

GUIDELINES:

- 1 Seclusion is the act of secluding, i.e. shutting out or keeping apart from society. It is potentially traumatic and can harm a child's wellbeing. Consequently, no child is to be secluded at Big Rock Primary School.
- 2 Physical restraint is a serious intervention that may have an emotional and physical impact on a child and the person doing the restraining. There are legal and reputational risks if a child is harmed.

Staff need to use their professional judgment when they decide to use physical restraint. They should consider their duty of care to children, their right to protect themselves and others from harm, and their obligation to act lawfully.

3. If a child continues to exercise high-risk behaviour then an Individual Behaviour Plan will be written to assist those working with the child. The Plan will involve the child's parent/guardian and outline preventative and de-escalation strategies that will prevent the need for physical restraint.
- 4 All staff will be trained to effectively minimise the need for physical restraint. Training is available from the Ministry of Education.
- 5 If a child is restrained then the staff member involved is to advise the Principal or Deputy Principal as soon as possible. Parents should also be informed.
- 6 Staff members are to refer to the document "Guidance for New Zealand Schools and Behaviour Management to Minimise Physical Restraint" (MOE2017)
- 7 All incident involving restraint of a child will be reported to the Ministry of Education on the appropriate referral form unless there is an Individual Behaviour Plan in place for the child.