

NAG 5—Health and Safety

Restraint and Seclusion Policy

Rationale

To guide the Board of Trustees, Principal and staff in the use of restraint in the school.

Purpose

To ensure that Northern Health School provides a safe physical and emotional environment for all staff, students, their families and that any use of physical restraint is in accordance with the rules and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education.

Guidelines

- a) It should be noted that any form of seclusion is not permitted and will not be used in the school.
- b) Physical restraint will only be used when safety is at serious and imminent risk.
- c) Physical restraint will:
 - Be reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances.
 - Respect the student and their dignity.
- d) De-escalation techniques, including understanding the student, giving them space and communicating calmly will be used before physical restraint
- e) Physical restraint will follow the Ministry guidelines as to the form of restraint used.
- f) The wellbeing of the student will be monitored throughout the restraint process.
- g) Following a restraint incident the wellbeing of the staff member(s) and the student will be monitored. Parents / caregivers will be informed the same day so monitoring can continue at home.
- h) A debrief will be undertaken with staff, witnesses and the student(s) following an incident.
- i) An incident report will be completed and signed by the staff member, their senior teacher and the Principal. This report will be submitted to the Ministry of Education and the Board of Trustees.
- j) Training will be provided through the Ministry of Education for all authorised staff.
- k) Where necessary, an individual behaviour plan will be developed to support the student with input from parents.
- l) All teachers are automatically authorised to act under the legislation. Where necessary other employees of the school will be authorised to use physical restraint. Where necessary, other employees of the school will be authorised in writing to use physical restraint.

Adopted

September 2020

Chairperson

Review Date September 2023