NAG 5

BLOMFIELD SPECIAL SCHOOL & RESOURCE CENTRE
BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT POLICY

RATIONALE:

To provide clear guidance and direction to the Board, Principal and staff on how to support students' positive behaviour development and how to respond to student distress in alignment with the values of our school and the Education and Training Act 2020 and current Ministry of Education guidelines on physical restraint.

PURPOSE:

- To ensure that Blomfield School provides a safe physical and emotional environment for all staff, students, and their families which provides for the development of positive behavioural interactions.
- To ensure that any use of physical restraint as a last resort is carried out in accordance with the rules and guidelines issued by MOE.

GUIDELINES:

Positive Behaviour Development

A) Positive behaviour development will be supported through the processes and strategies outlined in the Blomfield School Positive Outcomes Programme (POP) manual, which is inclusive of a range of therapeutic approaches, and ways of developing social and emotional competencies.
B) POP is underpinned by a Teaching approach which emphasizes the importance of the staff -student relationship, as well as pedagogical strategies which promote learning ('Relationships First').
C) POP provides a detailed process for supporting classroom teachers to work through and seek support for student distress or 'challenging behaviour'. This is the 'Blomfield Individual Behaviour Support Cycle', which has 4 stages.
D) All staff receive a copy of the POP manual and an induction in this approach, when they start work at Blomfield, supported by regular updates and training for all staff.
E) POP is reviewed annually for any required changes.
F) Seclusion is not permitted and will not be used in the school.
G) Physical Restraint will only be used as a last resort to prevent imminent harm

Physical Restraint

H) 'Physical Restraint 'is defined as 'the use of physical force to prevent, restrict or subdue the movement of a student's body against the students's will.'

I) Physical restraint will only be used when safety is at serious and imminent risk to prevent imminent harm. 'Harm' is defined as "harm to the health, safety or well-being of the student or another person, including significant emotional distress suffered by the student or the other person".

J) Deflection and de-escalation techniques, including understanding the student, giving them space and communicating calmly will be used before physical restraint is considered.

K) Physical restraint will follow the 'Guidelines for Registered Schools in New Zealand on the Use of Physical Restraint' (Currently in Draft form- 2022)

L) Physical restraint will:
a - Be reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances.
b - Respect the student and their dignity.

M) Teachers (including Relief Teachers and people with a Limited Authority to Teach) are automatically authorised to use physical restraint.

N) Other Staff members must be specifically authorised in writing by the Board of Trustees via the Principal. These staff members must be trained in de-escalation and positive behaviour management (through POP) and in the appropriate physical holds, prior to being authorised.

O) Students who are assessed as likely to require physical restraint will be regularly identified and a support plan for that student identifying triggers and appropriate calming responses will be developed, in collaboration with whanau whenever possible. Parents/ Carers need to provide informed consent to the potential use of restraint.

P) The safest physical holds only will be used and only for the minimum time necessary.

Q) The Principal will be notified immediately of the use of restraint, and will ensure a Reporting Form is completed and forwarded to the MoE and made available to Parents/Carers and the Board of Trustees, and placed on the student's file.

R) Following a restraint, the wellbeing of the staff member(s) and the student will be monitored. Parents/Carers will be informed as soon as possible on the same day so monitoring can continue at home.

S) Parents/Carers need to be provided with an opportunity for a debrief within 72 hours or later if mutually agreed.

T) A register of all incidences of restraint used by Blomfield School will be maintained.

U) Any complaints related to the use of Physical restraint should follow Blomfield School's Parent/ Carer Complaints policy. +

Reviewed, approved and accepted by the Board of Trustees 24 March 2022