

# Private School Assurance Statement and Self-Audit Checklist

January 2022

Education Review Office Box 2799 Wellington, New Zealand Phone 04 499 2489 Fax 04 499 2482 info@ero.govt.nz - www.ero.govt.nz

## How to fill out the Self-Audit Checklists and Assurance Statement

As part of the review process, the Education Review Office (ERO) asks the school management to complete the **Self-Audit Checklist** and the **Assurance Statement**.

The accuracy and validity of the information given in the checklists and assurance statement is important for the focus of the review.

Completing the checklists and the assurance statement is a useful process for your own self-review.

To guide you in preparing for the ERO review, a list of the areas that the review team will seek to verify is included for each part of the checklist. Please note these lists are indicative. The team may wish to follow up other areas to verify in determining its judgements against the criteria for registration of private schools.

### How to fill in the checklists

The checklists cover requirements of key interest to ERO in the following areas:

- Premises
- Student numbers
- Staffing
- Equipment
- Curriculum
- Tuition Standards
- Health and Safety
- Privacy
- Managers
- International Students

Please complete and add any further comments or explanations on the sheet of paper provided. Attach any explanations or matters you are unsure about to the relevant sheet.

### How to fill in the Assurance Statement

After you have completed the checklist sheet please complete and sign the assurance statement. The second page is for school management to note areas where you are aware that you are not meeting legal requirements. There is space to outline the circumstances and the action you are taking on each issue. This information will be very useful for school management as well as for the review.

Please remember to attach your checklists to your assurance statement.

### PRIVATE SCHOOLS ASSURANCE STATEMENT

То:	The Chief Review Officer, Education Review Office
From:	The School Management
	(School Compliance Certification)
Has the school related to:	I management taken all reasonable steps to meet its legal requirements

	Compliance Area	Yes	No	Unsure
1	Premises			
2	Students			
3	Staffing			
4	Equipment			
5	Curriculum			
6	Tuition Standards			
7	Health and Safety			
8	Privacy			
9	Managers			
10	International Students			

Areas of self-identified non-compliance and actions to be taken: see next page.

### **Attestation:**

The school management and the principal have taken all reasonable steps to meet their legal requirements and/or adopt efficient good practice as identified in the Self-Audit Checklist. Where non-compliance has been identified, measures are being taken to remedy this.

Management/C	hairperson		
	Name	Signature	Date
Principal			
	Name	Signature	Date

This page is for you to note areas where you are aware that you are not meeting legal requirements and to advise any action you are taking.
Identified area(s) of non-compliance:
Action being taken to address non-compliance:

### What does ERO want to know?

ERO wants to know that the school management meet the criteria for registration as a private school and has appropriate documents, or policies and/or procedures to support this (includes questions for your own self-review).

Note: References are in brackets where appropriate.

### **Self-Audit Checklist**

Please	e tick all questions including bullet points or write N/A if not applicable.	Yes	No	Unsure					
1	Premises								
	(i) Has school management ensured that the school premises are suitable for a school of its description and the number of students at the school?  (note that this applies to all premises used by the school for the regular delivery of courses, whether or not the managers of the school own or lease the premises for the school); (Refer clause 3, Schedule 7 Education and Training Act 2020)								
	Suitable premises								
	(ii) In considering the above, do the school premises comply with the provisions of:								
	<ul> <li>The Building Act 2004?</li> <li>The Building Regulations (the NZ Building Code)?</li> <li>Building warrant of fitness (if required)?</li> <li>Health and Safety at Work Act and regulations?</li> <li>Fire Safety Evacuation of Building Regulations? [Note: the above list is non-exhaustive]</li> </ul>								
	Items ERO will check/verify as required:								
	<ul> <li>Property management and maintenance documentation</li> <li>Swimming pool safety</li> <li>Smoke-free environment</li> <li>Workplace safety</li> <li>Evacuation procedures</li> <li>New buildings, alteration, demolition – Code of Compliance certificate from the local council</li> </ul>								
2	Students								
	(i) Does the school usually provide tuition for 9 or more students who are of or over the age of 5 years and under the age of 16 years?								

Please tick all questions including bullet points or write N/A if not applicable.	Yes	No	Unsure
Criteria for registration as private school [refer to clause 2(b), Schedule 7, E&T Act 2020]			
(ii) Does the principal for all pupils attending the school keep accurate admission and daily attendance records when the school is open? [section 36 Ed &Training Act 2020; reg.3 Education (School Attendance) Regulations 1951]			
(iii) Has the principal ensured that an enrolment record is kept for each student attending the school in a form and containing information and rules specified by the Secretary for Education?			
(section 237 Ed and Training Act 2020 and MOE Circular 2013/21 or any amendment – Rules for student enrolment records) Enrolment records			
(iv) Has the principal taken reasonable steps to send the enrolment record to the principal of another school when a student moves to the other school? [Write N/A if situation has not arisen] (section 237 Ed &Training Act 2020 and MOE Circular 2013/21 or any amendment – Rules for student enrolment records) Enrolment records			
(v) Has the principal given written notice of any suspensions or expulsions, and the reasons for those suspensions and expulsions, to the Secretary for Education in accordance with clause 16, Schedule 7 of the Ed & Training Act 2020? [Write N/A if situation has not arisen] Suspensions and expulsions from private schools to be notified to Secretary			
Corporal Punishment and seclusion			
(vi) Has school management ensured, through policy or notification, that the principal, staff and persons supervising or controlling on behalf of the management are aware of the requirement not to use force by way of correction or punishment towards students enrolled or attending the school? (Good practice; section 98 Education and Training Act 2020).			
Prohibition on corporal punishment and seclusion in registered schools			

### Items ERO will check/verify as required

- Attendance monitoring
- Disciplinary records

Please	e tick all questions including bullet points or write N/A if not applicable.	Yes	No	Unsure
3	Staffing			
3	Suitable staffing  (i) Has school management ensured that it has staffing that is suitable to the age range and level of its students, the curriculum taught at the school, and the size of the school?  [Clause 2(c), Schedule 7 Education and Training Act 2020]  Criteria for registration as private school  Registration/Practising Certificates  Has school management:  (ii) Ensured that persons without a practicing certificate are not permanently appointed to a teaching position?  [section 92(2) Education and Training Act 2020]  (iii) Ensured that it does not continue to employ in any teaching position, any person—  • whose registration as a teacher has been cancelled, and who has not since been registered as a teacher again; or  • whose LAT has been cancelled, and who has not since been granted an authorisation again or			
	<ul> <li>registered as a teacher; or</li> <li>whose practicing certificate or LAT is suspended by the Disciplinary Tribunal?     [section 93(1) Ed and Training Act 2020]</li> <li>(iv) Ensured that it does not continue to employ any person in any teaching position who does not hold a practising certificate or LAT for a period of more than 20 half-days in any calendar year; and</li> <li>(v) That person is under general supervision of a person who holds a practicing certificate? [Write N/A if not applicable]     [section 93(2) and (3) Education and Training Act 2020]</li> <li>Restrictions on appointment of teachers</li> <li>Restrictions on continued employment of teachers</li> </ul>			
	Mandatory Reporting As employer has school management reported to the Teaching Council in compliance with the mandatory reporting requirements under the Ed & Training Act 2020 in the following situations: [Write N/A if not applicable].			

se tick all o	questions including bullet points or write N/A if not applicable.	Yes	No	Unsure
•	When a teacher has been dismissed for any reason (section 489)?			
	If, within the 12 months before a teacher's resignation (including a fixed-term position) or expiry of the teacher's fixed-term contract, the school manager had advised the teacher that it was dissatisfied with, or intended to investigate, any aspect of the teacher's conduct or teacher's competence (section 489)?			
•	The board receives a complaint about the teacher's conduct or competence while he/she was an employee within 12 months of after the teacher ceases to be employed (section 490)?			
•	The school manager has reason to believe that the teacher has engaged in serious misconduct (section 491)?			
•	The school manager is satisfied that despite undertaking competency procedures with the teacher, the teacher has not reached the required level of competence (section 492)?			
489 Ma	andatory reporting of dismissals and resignations			
	andatory reporting of complaints received about former aployees			
491 Ma	andatory reporting of possible serious misconduct			
492 Ma	andatory reporting of failure to reach required level of mpetence			
Police	Vetting			
	ordance with section 104 and Schedule 4 of the E&T Act has school management obtained a Police vet of every 1 -			
•	Whom management appoints or intends to appoint to a non-teaching position at the school, and who is to work during normal school hours and who is not a registered teacher or holder of a limited authority to teach [LAT]			
•	Who is a contractor or the employee of a contractor, before the person has or is likely to have, unsupervised access to students at the school during normal school hours?			
•	Under bullet points one and two who still works at the school on or about the third anniversary of the previous Police vet)?			
of the	Nothing in the provisions above limits or affects Part 3 Children's Act 2014 in relation to the safety checking dren's workers [refer clause 14 of Schedule 4 E&T Act			

se tick all questions including bullet points or write N/A if not applicable.	Yes	No	Unsu
Reference: Clauses 9, 10, 11, and 12 Schedule 4 Education			
and Training Act 2020.			
104 Required Police vetting			
Schedule 4			
Police vetting			
Children's Act 2014 - Safety Checking of Workforce			
For <i>persons</i> that the school management <i>proposes</i> to employ	,		
or engage as a paid <i>children's worker*</i> , the following checks have been undertaken:			
<ul> <li>confirmation of the identity of the children's worker (fo</li> </ul>	r		
example sighting the required documents, or using an electronic service)			
<ul> <li>collection and consideration of a range of information about the person, including:</li> </ul>	n		
(a) a work history,			
(b) a referee check			
(c) an interview of the person			
(d) third party checks with their professional registration body	/		
or licensing authority (as appropriate) and			
(e) a Police vet.			
Evaluation of this information and assessment of the risk the person would pose to the safety of children employed or engaged as a children's worker			
Note:			
(i) *Children's workers who are core workers work alone with or have primary responsibility or authority over children, e.g. teachers, teacher aides or support staff. Also applies to persons undertaking unpaid children's work as part of educational or vocational training course. The above procedures also apply to non-core workers	r D S		
(ii) For details the school management should refer to the relevant provisions of the Children's Act 2014, and regulations 5 – 8 of the Children's (Requirements for Safety Checks of Children's Workers) Regulations 2015 - www.legislation.govt.nz.	d r		
(iv)For more information visit www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz. (v) Seek independent advice.	:		
(vi) Keep accurate records about each aspect of the safety checking process.	y		

Child Protection Policy  Does the school management have a child protection policy* that-  (a) is written down and in use?  (b) says how suspected neglect and abuse will be identified and reported?  (c) will be reviewed every three years?  (d) is available on the school's website or on request? [Reference sections 18 and 19 Children's Act 2014. Refer to Part 6 of Children's Act 2014 - a practical guide for assistance] *Note: the policy is a mandatory requirement.  Physical restraint  a. Ensured that a teacher or authorised staff member does not physically restraint a student, unless the conditions set out in s 99(2) are met and b. follow the practice and procedure prescribed by the Ministry of Education's Rules under section 100 and  c. Guidelines on the use of physical restraint and behaviour management under s.101 of the Education and Training Act 2020.  *Note: the definition "physically restrain" means to use physical force to prevent, restrict, or subdue the movement of the student's body or part of the student's body against the student's will.  "Authorised staff member" means an employee of the school who is trained and authorised by the board to use physical restraint in accordance with the section [refer s99(4) E&T Act]  99	se tick all	questions including bullet points or write N/A if not applicable.	Yes	No	Unsu
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		-			
		·			

Pleas	e tick all questions including bullet points or write N/A if not applicable.	Yes	No	Unsure
	b. the names and position of authorised staff [Clause 4]			
	Has the school management taken appropriate steps:			
	c. to ensure parents/caregivers are notified if physical restraint is an element in a student's Individual Behaviour Plan, and how physical restraint will be applied in accordance with the Guidelines, and			
	d. notified as soon as possible on the same day about any incident of physical restraint, including how it was managed in accordance with the Guidelines [Clause 6]			
	e. to ensure that for any student who has been physically restrained and for any staff member who used physical restraint, their physical and psychological wellbeing is monitored for the rest of the school day following the incident of physical restraint			
	f. that records kept under clause 9 are analysed so that trends can be identified			
	g. checked that documentation about each incident is complete [Clause 7]			
	h. Has the management reported every incident of physical restraint to the Ministry of Education using the form attached to the Rules (Appendix 1)			
	i. Has every staff member who uses physical restraint completed a staff physical restraint report, and			
	j. has the management a copy of the form in the student's file and provided a copy to the student's teacher/s, parents and/or caregivers [Clause 8]			
	k. Has the management kept written records of every instance of physical restraint of a student that is carried out under the Rules [Clause 9]			
	I. Has the management ensured that teachers and authorised staff are suitably supported and trained [Clause 10]			
	m. Does management have a school policy on managing challenging behaviour and using restraint that is consistent with the Guidelines and			
	n. taken appropriate steps to ensure that parents, students, school staff and the community know about the school's			

Please tick all questions including bullet points or write N/A if not applicable.	Yes	No	Unsure
policies for managing challenging behaviour and using physical restraint.[clause 11]			
**Note: MOE advice: Until new rules and guidance are issued, schools should continue to follow the procedures set out in the existing rules and have regard to the current guidelines. When used, these will continue to help keep teacher practice safe. Where there are inconsistencies between the legislation and the guidelines about the threshold for when physical restraint can be used, the legislation takes precedence.			
Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2017- <u>Download the rules [PDF, 847 KB]</u> ; updated <u>Guidelines for Registered Schools in New Zealand on the Use of Physical Restraint (September 2017)</u>	-		

### Items ERO will check/verify as required

- Teacher registration
- Authority to teach
- Mandatory Reporting
- Police vetting
- No Corporal Punishment
- Staff Appraisal and PMS documentation
- Safety Checking of Workforce and Child Protection Policy
- Documents as required under the Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2017and any amendments to the Rules.

4	Equipment		
	Has school management ensured that the school has equipment that is suitable for the curriculum being delivered at the school?  [Clause 2(d), Schedule 7, Ed & Training Act 2020]  Criteria for registration as private school		

### Equipment Items ERO will check/verify as required

- Equipment inventory
- Property management policies/practices
- Equipment for practical classes
- Curriculum statements\*
- Laboratory equipment

Pleas	se tick all questions including bullet points or write N/A if not applicable.	Yes	No	Unsure
5	Curriculum			
	(i) Does the school have a curriculum for			
	Teaching			
	Learning, and			
	Assessment? and			
	(ii) Does the school make details of the curriculum and its programme for delivery available for parents?			
	[Clause 2(e), Schedule 7, Ed & Training Act 2020]			
	(iii) Does the curriculum enable students to leave school able to participate in and contribute to their own community and New Zealand society as a whole?			
	(Refer page 20, Private Schools and the Law, Law Commission Report September 2009)			
	Criteria for registration as private school			
	<ul> <li>Achievement expectations</li> <li>Availability of curriculum information to parents (school prospectus)</li> </ul>			
6	Tuition Standards	T	T	
	Does the school have suitable tuition standards which include giving students tuition of a standard no lower than that of the tuition given to students enrolled at State schools of the same class level?			
	(Clauses 2(f);and 5, Schedule 7 Ed & Training Act 2020)			
	Note: in assessing the standard of tuition, the mode of curriculum delivery and the regularity of instruction will be considered by reviewers			
	[Refer Clause 5(2) Schedule 7 Ed & Training Act 2020)			
	Criteria for registration as private school			
	Tuition standards			
	Items ERO will check/verify as required			
	<ul> <li>Teacher and school-wide planning</li> <li>Student assessment and reporting</li> <li>Regularity of instance</li> </ul>			

Please	e tick all questions including bullet points or write N/A if not applicable.	Yes	No	Unsure
	<ul><li>Curriculum review</li><li>Classroom observation</li><li>Attendance monitoring</li></ul>			
7	Health and Safety			
	Does the school have suitable health and safety polices that enable it to meet its health and safety obligations including the requirement for regular review?			
	<ul> <li>Compliance with the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 and related Health Orders.</li> <li>Child protection policy/procedures under Children's Act 2014</li> <li>Safety checking of staff under the Children's Act and regulations</li> <li>No seclusion</li> <li>Police vetting</li> <li>Compliance with Physical Restraint Rules 2017-Download the rules [PDF, 847 KB]; updated Guidelines for Registered Schools in New Zealand on the Use of Physical Restraint</li> <li>Policies/procedures under Health and Safety at Work Act</li> <li>Compliance with Fire Safety Evacuation Procedures and Evacuation Schemes</li> <li>Internet safety policy including cyber bullying.</li> <li>EOTC guidelines</li> </ul>			
8	Privacy			
	Does the school have policies and procedures to manage personal information under the Privacy Act 2020? [Note this Act applies from 1 December 2020]			
	Items ERO will check/verify as required  • Policies/procedures under the Privacy Act 2020			
9	Managers			
	Have the school managers attested that they are fit and proper persons as set out in clause 6, Schedule 7 of the Education and Training Act 2020?			

Please	e tick all questions including bullet points or write N/A if not applicable.	Yes	No	Unsure
	6 Managers to be fit and proper persons			
	Items ERO will check/verify as required			
	Completed attestation forms (please see separate template for this)			
10	Statement of national education and learning priorities			
	Did the school manager:			
	(a) In operating the school, have regard to any statement of			
	national education and learning priorities; and			
	(b) ensure that, in developing and delivering the curriculum,			
	the school's principal and staff have regard to any			
	statement of national education and learning			
	priorities.			
	Refer: Schedule 7, Clause 7 <u>Manager must have regard to statement of national education and learning priorities</u> (Ed &Training Act 2020)			
11	International Students			
	Has school management documented and implemented policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students? [Write N/A if not applicable].			
	Has school management ensured that it is complying with the Code of Practice for Pastoral Care of International Students* particularly in terms of processes for:			
	Marketing and promotion [clauses 56/57 of Code]			
	<ul> <li>Managing and monitoring education agents [clauses 58/59 of Code]</li> </ul>			
	Offer, enactment, contracts, and insurance [clauses 60 to 66 of Code]			
	<ul> <li>Immigration matters [Clauses 67/68 of Code]</li> </ul>			
	Orientation [clauses 69/70 of Code]			
	Safety and wellbeing [clauses 71/72 of Code]			
	International school learners under 18 [clause 73]			
	<ul> <li>International school learners under 10 years [clause 74]</li> </ul>			

	Yes	No	Unsure
International school learners at risk or with additional learning needs [clause 75]			
Accommodation [clause 76]			
Safety checks and appropriate checks [clause 77]			
Learner support, advice and services [clauses 78/79]			
Managing withdrawal and closure [clauses 80/81]			
Dealing with complaints [clauses 82/83]			
* Refer <i>The</i> Education Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners Code of Practice 2021 comes into force on 1 January 2022.			
Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners Code of Practice 2021).  Please see the information sheet International Students Information for Schools			
For further information on any of the items above, please vertically above, please vertically above.	visit th	e Mii	nistry (
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Education website	cular	inter	est wi
Education website  http://www.education.govt.nz/school/  The panel on health, safety and wellbeing may be of part	icular a for ı	inter regist	est wi

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Self-Audit Checklist

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