

DUTY OF CARE

POLICY

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Merri Creek Primary School owe to our students and members of the school community who visit and use the school premises.

Policy:

“Duty of care” is a legal obligation that requires schools to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm, which can include personal injury (physical or psychological) or damage to property. The reasonable steps that our school may decide to take in response to a potential risk or hazard will depend on the circumstances of the risk.

Our school has developed policies and procedures to manage common risks in the school environment, including:

- Yard duty and Supervision
- Bullying Prevention
- Camps and Excursions
- First Aid
- Grounds Maintenance
- Child Safe Standards
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Mandatory Reporting
- Occupational Health and Safety.

Staff at our school understand that school activities involve different levels of risk and that particular care may need to be taken to support younger students or students with additional needs. Our school also understands that it is responsible for ensuring that the school premises are kept in good repair and will take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of members of our community suffering injury or damage because of the state of the premises.

School staff, parents, carers and students are encouraged to speak to the principal to raise any concerns about risks or hazards at our school, or our duty of care obligations. Staff are to follow the Occupational Health Safety (OHS) procedures and processes that are in place at MCPS.

External Providers

Staff at our school acknowledge that, as our duty of care is non-delegable, we are also required to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm when external providers have been engaged to plan for or conduct an activity involving our students. Our *Visitors Policy* and *Camps and Excursions Policy* include information on the safety and care of our students when engaged with external providers.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Duty of Care](#)
- School Policy and Advisory Guide: Child Safety responding and reporting policy
- School Policy and Advisory Guide: Visitors Policy
- School Policy and Advisory Guide: Volunteers policy
- School Policy and Advisory Guide: Excursions and camps.

Review Cycle:

This policy was last updated on March 2020 and is scheduled for review on March 2024.

This policy will be reviewed in:

March 2024