



DUTY OF CARE

POLICY

RATIONALE

At Richmond Primary School, teachers are required to supervise students adequately. This requires not only protection from known hazards, but also from those that could arise (those that the teacher could have easily foreseen) and against which preventative measures could have been taken. Whenever a student-teacher relationship exists, the teacher has a special duty of care. This is a legal obligation to protect students from injury and harm.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Richmond 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:

- Anaphylaxis
- Asthma
- Bullying Prevention
- Camps, Excursions and Incursions
- Child Safe Standards
- Distribution of Medication
- Complaints
- Dogs
- First Aid
- Headlice
- Mandatory Reporting
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- Sunsmart
- Uniform
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Yard duty and Supervision

Our school acknowledges we are required to take reasonable precautions to prevent the abuse of a

child by an individual associated with the organisation while the child is under the care, supervision or authority of the organisation.

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.

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

- the Department’s Policy and Advisory Library: [Duty of Care](#)
- the Department’s Policy and Advisory Library: [Structured Workplace Learning](#)

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways

- Provided to staff at induction and included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Made available publicly on our school website
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	February 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	February 2026