



# DUTY OF CARE POLICY

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## RATIONALE

“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.

## AIM

To explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Malvern Valley Primary School owe to our students and members of the school community who visit and use the school premises.

## IMPLEMENTATION

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

- Anaphylaxis
- Asthma
- Yard Duty
- Sun Smart
- Bullying Prevention
- Camps and Excursions
- Raising Concerns and Complaints
- First Aid
- Photography, Filming and recording Students
- Digital Learning
- CCTV
- Mobile Phones
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- Inclusion and Diversity
- Child Safe Responding and Reporting
- Home Learning
- Healthcare Needs
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Yard Duty and Supervision

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.

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.

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.

## **EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle, or upon any updates advised by the DET.

## **RESOURCES**

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Duty of Care](#)
- Other School policies listed can be found on the school website.

**RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: 2021**

**TO BE REVIEWED: 2024**