

## DUTY OF CARE POLICY



### Child Safe Commitment

- Westall Primary School is committed to child safety.
- We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers.
- We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.
- We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.
- We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.
- Our School is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.
- Our School has robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers.
- Our School is committed to regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child abuse risks.
- We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.
- Westall Primary School is committed to creating safe and inclusive environment for all its students from all backgrounds, cultures, languages, LGBTI, religious and other minority groups.
- We have specific policies, procedures and training in place that support our leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments.
- Further information, our policy, code of conduct and reporting processes are available on our website
- **If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.**

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Westall 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
- Tree Maintenance
- Grounds Maintenance
- Student Private Property
- Child Safe Standards
- External Providers (including after school care)

- 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.

### **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. Our school also takes steps to ensure student safety when they are engaging in off-site workplace learning programs 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](#)
- Relevant School based policies are available from the School Website

### **REVIEW CYCLE**

This policy was last updated on May 14 2021



Principal Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date 14 May 2021

Scheduled for review in May 2024.