

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our staff and school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Croydon Community School and OPTIONS owe to our students, parents/carers and members of the school community who visit and use the school premises.

DEFINITION

“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.

POLICY

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
- Child Safe Standards
- Incursions (Safety of Children Working with External Providers)
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers in Schools
- Visitors to the School
- Working with Children (Suitability) Checks – Staff and Volunteers & Visitors
- Child Safety Recording & Reporting Obligations (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. The *Visitors to the School 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, such as when students are participating in work experience, school-based apprenticeships and traineeships, structured workplace learning and any other workplace learning program involving external providers. Our school will follow all applicable Department of Education and Training policy and guidelines in relation to off-site learning and will ensure that the safety and welfare of the students engaging in these activities is paramount. Our school requires that employers

offering internships, work experience etc. sign the school's Child Safe Code of Conduct. The Department's guidelines in relation to Workplace Learning are available at the following link:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/structured-workplace-learning/policy>

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

School Policy and Advisory Guide: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/duty-of-care/policy>

Reference:

In addition to the above policies, please refer also to the school's:

- Anaphylaxis Management Policy
 - Asthma Management Policy
 - Bleeding Students/Blood Spills Policy
 - Bullying Prevention Policy
 - Camps and Excursions Policy
 - Care Arrangements for Ill Children Policy
 - Collection of Students Policy
 - Diabetes Management Policy
 - Drug and Alcohol Management
 - Epilepsy and Seizure Policy
 - Medical & First Aid Emergencies Policy
 - Gender Identity Policy
 - Health Care Needs Policy
 - Incursions (Safety of Children Working with External Providers) Policy
 - Information and Privacy Policy
 - Medication (Administration of) Policy
 - Procedures For Recording and Verifying WWC (Suitability) Checks and VIT Registration Policy
 - Professional Learning Policy
 - Responding to Violent and Dangerous Child Behaviour Policy
 - Running Away from School Policy
 - Sunsmart Policy
 - Visitors Policy
 - Working with Children (Suitability) Checks – Staff Policy
 - Yard Duty and Supervision Policy
- all of which relate to the school's duty of care.

Please also refer to the Child Safe Standards.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy, last updated 1st August, 2020 and will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change.