

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 Oakwood 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:

- School Bullying
- Camps
- Excursions
- First Aid
- Anaphylaxis
- Distribution of Medication
- Care arrangements for ill students
- Dogs in School policy
- Student engagement policy including Child Safe Standards
- External Providers (including RTOS delivering VET/VCAL)
- Emergency Management
- Critical Incidents
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Staff requirements and Working with Children compliance
- Mandatory Reporting
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Enrolment
- Privacy

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.

Further information and resources

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Duty of Care](#)
- Oakwood School file server: [Current Policies](#)

Review cycle

This policy was last updated on 18 April, 2018 and is scheduled for review in April 2019