

Duty of Care Policy

Ratified by School Council May 2019



1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Coatesville Primary School owe to our students and members of the school community who visit and use the school premises.

2. Policy

- 2.1 "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.
- 2.2 Our school has developed policies and procedures to manage common risks in the school environment, including:
- 2.2.1 *Bullying and Harassment policy*
 - 2.2.2 *Camps and Excursions policy*
 - 2.2.3 *Child Safe Code of Conduct*
 - 2.2.4 *Child Safe Standards policy*
 - 2.2.5 *Excursions and Incursions policy*
 - 2.2.6 *Emergency Management procedures*
 - 2.2.7 *First Aid policy*
 - 2.2.8 *Infectious Disease policy*
 - 2.2.9 *Mandatory Reporting policy*
 - 2.2.10 *Medications policy*
 - 2.2.11 *Occupational Health and Safety policy*
 - 2.2.12 *SunSmart policy*
 - 2.2.13 *Visitors in School policy*
 - 2.2.14 *Volunteers policy*
 - 2.2.15 *Yard Duty and Supervision policy*
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The school has an active and responsive school Ground's Committee.

Formatted: Font: Italic

2.5 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.

3. External providers

3.1 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.

3.2 Our *Visitors in School policy*, *Camps and Excursions policy* and *Excursions and Incursions policy* include information on the safety and care of our students when engaged with external providers.

4. Further information and resources

4.1 *School Policy and Advisory Guide: Duty of Care*

5. Evaluation

5.1 This policy will be reviewed every 2 years (or as required) as part of the school's review cycle.

Formatted: Font: Italic

This policy was last ratified by School Council in May 2019