



Duty of Care and Supervision 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 Sydney Road Community School (SRCS) 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
- Child Safe Standards
- External Providers (including RTOS delivering VET/VCAL)
- 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, 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. 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>

Failure to Disclose and Failure to Protect

Reporting child sexual abuse is a community-wide responsibility. Accordingly, a new criminal offence has been created in Victoria that imposes a clear legal duty upon all adults to report information about child sexual abuse to police. The offence commenced on 27 October 2014.

Any adult who forms a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed by an adult against a child under 16 has an obligation to report that information to police. Failure to disclose the information to Police is a criminal offence.

Related Policy Documents

[Visitor policy](#)

[Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)

[Child Safety policy](#)

[Confidentiality agreement - students on placement](#)

[Confidentiality Policy](#)

Camps policy



Approval and Review Details

Date Implemented	July 2020
Author/s	Irene Savakis
Approved By	<i>School Improvement Team</i>
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	Tessa Abbottsmith Youl Co Principal Irene Savakis Co Principal
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Responsible for Review	School Improvement Team
References	DET Policy and Advisory Library: Duty of Care DET Policy and Advisory Library: Structured Workplace Learning