

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 Riverbend Primary School owe to our students and members of the school community who visit and use the school premises.

POLICY

As a new school Riverbend Primary School recognises their duty of care regarding the transitioning of students of all ages. A strong focus has been placed on both transferring and transitioning programs to ensure a smooth, seamless transfer from not only kinder to Primary school but as students move into the new estate. Details are further outlined in the Student Wellbeing & Engagement 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.

Riverbend Primary School is a mainstream school with a physical design and an integrated specialist provision that provides additional support to a higher proportion of students with disabilities (up to 10%). Students with disabilities are provided enhanced support to receive high quality, evidence-based educational provision alongside mainstream students to the greatest extent possible in a safe, accessible and supportive environment.

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
- Grounds Maintenance
- Child Safe Standards
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures (incl 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.

Riverbend Primary School acknowledge we are required to take reasonable precautions to prevent the abuse of a child by an individual associated with the organisation while the child is under the care, supervision or authority of the organisation.

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.

Pandemic

During a pandemic, such as the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, government schools are required to comply with the Department's Operations Guides applicable to that specific pandemic.

The Department updates the Operations Guides as required during a pandemic based on advice from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). These Operations Guides cover procedures for management of duty of care.

The current COVID-19 Operations Guide includes a COVIDSafe Plan for Schools that ensures schools remain safe environments. The current Operations Guide is available on the Department's intranet.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Provided to staff at induction and included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Made available publicly on our school website
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Policy Advisory Library:

[Duty of Care](#)

Riverbend Primary School Policies and Procedures:

- Bully Prevention Policy
- Child Safety Policy
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Policy and Procedures
- First Aid Policy
- Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy



- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Camps and Excursions
- Emergency Management Plan
- Yard Duty and Supervision Policy
- Yard Duty Roster
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures (incl Mandatory reporting)

All policies mentioned above are available on our school website.

Policy REVIEW and Approval

Policy last reviewed	October 2020
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	Before October 2024