



DUTY OF CARE

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Wallan Secondary College 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
- Bullying Prevention
- Excursions and Incursions
- First Aid
- Student Private Property
- Child Safe Standards
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Mandatory Reporting
- Occupational Health and Safety
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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](#)
Child Safe Standards
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/childsafestandards.aspx>
Personal Liability of School Employees
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/personalliability.aspx>
SERS Insurance Claims and Settlement Process
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/finance/pages/sers.aspx>
Volunteer Workers
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/volunteers.aspx>
Risk Management
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/Pages/risk.aspx>

REVIEW CYCLE

Scheduled for review in August 2022

This policy was ratified August 2019

Wallan Secondary College is committed to the protection and wellbeing of all students whilst participating in school activities both during and outside school hours. Staff have responsibility for building and maintaining a child safe environment. This responsibility extends to the identification and timely response to all concerns with regard the safety of any student of our College.