

DUTY OF CARE POLICY

Rationale

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

“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.

Implementation

Our school has developed policies and procedures to manage common risks in the school environment, including the following:

1. Supervision and Duty of Care Policy
2. Bullying Prevention Policy
3. Camps and Excursions Policy
4. First Aid Policy
5. Administration of Medication Policy
6. Child Safe Standards Policy
7. Visitor and External Provider Policy
8. Emergency Management Policy
9. Working with Children Policy
10. Mandatory Reporting Policy
11. Occupational Health and Safety Policy

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 & External Providers Policy* and *Camps and Excursions Policy* include information on the safety and care of our students when engaged with 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.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the School’s three year review cycle.