



Duty of Care Policy

Purpose

To outline to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Bunyip Primary School 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, which can all be found on the school’s website on the policies and reports page. These policies and procedures include:

- Anti-Bullying policy
- Camps and Excursions
- First Aid and ill student care
- Student Supervision
- Child Safe standards including mandatory reporting
- Visitors and Volunteers
- Working with Children Checks
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Emergency Management

The staff at Bunyip Primary School acknowledge they 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.

Staff at BPS 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.

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 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.

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.

Communication:

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

- Provided to staff at induction
- Provided to staff on the google drive
- Made publicly available on our school website
- Included as annual reference in the school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

Policy Review

Ratified by School Council: October 2021

To be reviewed: June 2024