



# RAMLEGH PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

## DUTY OF CARE POLICY

### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Ramleigh Park Primary School on 03 5991 5900.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Ramleigh Park 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, including:

- Yard duty and Supervision
- Bullying Prevention
- Camps and Excursions
- First Aid
- Child Safe Standards
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Mandatory Reporting
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Anaphylaxis
- Asthma

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.

Ramleigh Park Primary School acknowledges 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.

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](#)

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Policy and Advisory Library: [Duty of Care](#)
- Please visit the school website for further policies

## 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

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Policy last reviewed</i> | October 2020     |
| <i>Approved by</i>          | <i>Principal</i> |

*Next scheduled review date*

July 2023