

1. Rationale:

“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

2. Aims:

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

3. Implementation:

- 3.1 Our school has developed policies and procedures to manage common risks in the school environment, and these are available on our school website.
- 3.2 Our 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 The school's duty of care to students (and other persons) also includes the provision of safe and suitable buildings, grounds and equipment, effective anti-bully strategies, and ensuring appropriate and timely medical assistance is provided to injured or sick students or others on-site.
Reasonable steps to minimise the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm should be in place, including:
 - providing suitable and safe premises
 - undertaking risk assessments for school activities and events
 - implementing strategies to prevent reasonably foreseeable injuries, whether physical or psychological, to students (including injuries suffered as a result of bullying)
 - ensuring that appropriate medical assistance is provided to a sick or injured person.
 - ensuring the school complies with the Child Safe Standards
 - taking other reasonable precautions to minimise the risk of child abuse by an individual associated with the school
 - implementing relevant Department and local school policies
 - managing employee recruitment, conduct and performance

4. Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's ongoing policy and process review cycle.

References and Related Documents:

- *School Policy Advisory Library (PAL)*
<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/duty-of-care/policy>

Policy Review and Approval:

Policy last reviewed	October 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	October 2027 (every 3/4 years)