



DUTY OF CARE POLICY

Edgars Creek Primary School 5310

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Edgars Creek 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
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures (incl Mandatory reporting)
- Occupational Health and Safety

Our school also takes steps to ensure student safety when they are engaging in off- site learning programs with external providers, such as when students are participating in sports coaching. 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.

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.

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 COVID Safe Plan for Schools that ensures schools main safe environments. The current Operations Guide is [available on the Department's intranet](#).

Edgars Creek Primary School acknowledge 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Policy and Advisory Library: [Duty of Care](#)
- *Edgars Creek Primary School Yard and Duty Supervision*
- *Edgars Creek Primary School Bullying Prevention*
- *Edgars Creek Primary School Camps and Excursions Policy.*
- *Edgars Creek Primary School Child Safe Standards*
- *Edgars Creek Primary School Volunteers Policy*
- *Edgars Creek Primary School Visitors Policy*
- *Edgars Creek Primary School Health Care Needs Policy.*
- *Edgars Creek Primary School First Aid Policy.*
- *Edgars Creek Primary School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*
- *Edgars Creek Primary School Administration of Medication Policy*
- *Edgars Creek Primary School Emergency Management Plan*

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy will be noted by School Council in February, 2021 and is scheduled for review in May, 2024.