



ST. PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

DUTY OF CARE POLICY

Introduction

In addition to their professional obligations, Principals, teaching & non-teaching staff members and other employees of St. Peter's Primary School have a legal duty to take steps to protect students in their charge from risks of injury that are reasonably foreseeable.

St. Peter's Primary School maintains a 'culture of child safety' by actively implementing strategies in accordance with its moral & legal obligations and Victorian Government Ministerial Order 870. The School and its teaching & non-teaching staff members owe a 'duty of care' to students within their care, as well as to anyone else who may sustain injury, loss or damage as a result of the school's conduct, including but not limited to parents, student teachers, volunteers, visitors or contractors.

Scope

Duty of Care applies to all sites under the control of St. Peter's Primary School and applies to all members of the Leadership Team, Teaching & Non-Teaching Staff Members, casual relief teachers & contractors engaged by the school.

The School's Duty of Care

The school must take reasonable steps to protect students, staff members and anyone that attends the school site from foreseeable risks of injury. The broad requirements of the school to fulfil its 'duty of care' are to provide adequate supervision within the school or during school activities, as well as providing safe and suitable buildings, grounds and equipment.

Leadership Team & Staff Member's Duty of Care

The Leadership Team, Teacher & Non-Teaching Staff Members' 'duty of care' is not just confined to the geographical area of the school, or to school activities, or to those that occur outside the school where a student is acting on a staff member's instructions. The duty also applies to situations both before and after school where students can be assumed to be under the teacher's care.

'Duty of Care' requires principals, teachers and non-teaching staff members to take all reasonable steps to reduce risk, including the:

- » Provision of suitable and safe premises
- » Provision of an adequate system of supervision
- » Implementation of strategies to prevent bullying
- » Ensuring that medical assistance is provided to a sick or injured student.

The Leadership Team, Teacher & Non-Teaching Staff Members' may fail in their 'Duty of Care' by:

- » Arriving late to scheduled timetabled yard duty responsibilities

- » Failing to act appropriately to protect a student who claims to be bullied
- » Believing that a child is being abused, but failing to report the matter appropriately
- » Inappropriate use of social media
- » Leaving students unattended in the classroom
- » Using and operating damaged equipment
- » Failing to take appropriate action where hazards have been identified
- » Failing to adequately assess risks associated with activities
- » Failing to instruct students who are acting inappropriately
- » Ignoring dangerous play activities
- » Leaving the school during time release without approval
- » Providing inadequate supervision on a school excursion.

Evaluation

St Peter's Catholic Primary School	System Update: 30/10/2019	
Version 0.2	Date of Next Review: 2020	