

DUTY OF CARE POLICY



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain to the Frankston Heights Primary School community the non-delegable duty of care obligations owed by all staff to students and other members of the school community who visit or 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 to students and others who may be affected by school activities or the condition of the school environment. Harm may include physical or psychological injury, or damage to property.

The reasonable steps taken by Frankston Heights Primary School to manage risks will depend on the circumstances, including the nature of the activity, the level of risk, the age and maturity of students, and any additional needs that students may have.

To support the fulfilment of its duty of care obligations, Frankston Heights Primary School has developed policies, procedures and practices to manage common risks within the school environment, including:

- Yard Duty and Supervision
- Bullying Prevention
- Camps and Excursions
- First Aid
- Grounds Maintenance
- Child Safety and Wellbeing
- Mandatory Reporting
- Emergency Management
- Visitors
- Volunteers
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Occupational Health and Safety

Frankston Heights Primary School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students. In accordance with the Child Safe Standards, the school takes reasonable precautions to prevent the abuse of children by individuals associated with the school while children are under the school's care, supervision or authority.

School staff understand that different activities involve different levels of risk and that additional supervision, planning or support may be required for younger students and students with disability, additional needs or medical conditions.

The school also recognises its responsibility to maintain school buildings, grounds and facilities in a safe condition and to take reasonable steps to minimise the risk of injury or damage arising from the condition of the school premises.

Parents, carers, students, staff and members of the school community are encouraged to report any identified hazards, safety concerns or potential risks to the Principal so that appropriate action can be taken.

External Providers

Frankston Heights Primary School acknowledges that its duty of care is non-delegable and cannot be transferred to another person or organisation. Where external providers are engaged to deliver programs, services or activities involving students, the school will take reasonable steps to ensure appropriate planning, risk management and supervision arrangements are in place to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm.

Further information regarding the engagement of external providers is available in the school's Visitors Policy and Camps and Excursions Policy.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Made available publicly on our school website
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Staff induction

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- Child Safe Policy
- Child Safe Code of Conduct
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Policy and Procedures
- Yard Duty and Supervision Policy
- Camps and Excursions Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Volunteers Policy

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL): [Duty of Care](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2029