

DUTY OF CARE POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to communicate to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Templestowe Heights 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 take in response to a potential risk or hazard will depend on the circumstances of the particular risk.

School Council 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
- Personal Property
- Child Safe Standards
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Occupational Health and Safety

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.

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.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated August 2024 and is scheduled for review in August 2027.