

# **Wooragee Primary School**

## **Duty of Care Policy**

### **October 2016**

#### **Rationale:**

Principals and teachers are held to a high standard of care in relation to students. The duty requires principals and teachers to take all reasonable steps to reduce risk, including:

- 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 school supports a culture (values, expectations and standards) and shared commitment to zero tolerance of child abuse, and arrangements that allow it to occur will not be tolerated. The school takes into consideration the diversity of the children attending the school, and their particular vulnerabilities. e.g. children with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

#### **Aim:**

- To outline and explain the nature of the legal duties owed by teachers and school staff towards students.
- For school staff to effectively carry out their duty of care.
- For the school community to work together to provide a safe and secure learning environment for children.

#### **Implementation:**

- Whenever a teacher-student relationship exists, teachers have a special duty of care.
- The teacher is to take such measures as are reasonable in the circumstances to protect a student under their charge from risks of injury that the teacher should reasonably have foreseen.
- The nature and extent of the duty will vary according to the circumstances. For example, the standard of care required will be higher when taking a group of preps for swimming lessons than when teaching a group of year 6s in the classroom.
- The Principal/teacher will consider what precautions the school could reasonably be expected to have taken to prevent an injury from occurring. This will involve consideration of the following factors:
  - the probability that the harm would occur if care were not taken.
  - the likely seriousness of the harm.
  - the burden of taking precautions to avoid the risk of harm.
  - the social utility of the activity that creates the risk of harm.
- The teachers' duty of care extends outside of school grounds for; camps, sporting events, excursions and After School Sport Program.
- The playground at Wooragee Primary School is supervised when students are outside at lunch and recess.

- Parents should make contact with the teacher when dropping their child off in the morning and hand over the child to the teacher as the teacher may be the only adult in the school and unable to supervise students outside and inside the classroom. Students at Wooragee are not permitted to play outside unless they are supervised.
- Students remain under the teacher's supervision until they are picked up at the end of the school day. Parents/carers should notify the school if they are going to be late after school (after 3.20) or early before school (before 8.45) so alternative arrangements can be made.
- Parents/carers are responsible for organising their child's bus transport to and from school. They should inform the school if their child is/is not travelling on the bus at the end of the day and stipulate which bus they are to get on. Teachers will maintain a bus roll and supervise students to the bus at the end of each day.
- Parents should inform the principal if their child is being bullied on the bus or at school so appropriate action can be taken.
- If the danger to students is beyond the control of the school, reasonable steps may involve contacting police or issuing warnings to parents.

#### **Related policies**

- Onsite Supervision of Students Policy
- Camps Policy
- Excursion Policy
- Anaphylaxis Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Student Engagement Policy
- Parent/Carer Information Handbook

#### **Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier as required.

***Ratified: October 2016***

***Review Date: 2019 or earlier as required***