

## DUTY OF CARE POLICY

### Preamble

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Mount Ridley College owe to our students and members of the College community who visit and use the school premises.

### Rationale

“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 College may decide to take in response to a potential risk or hazard will depend on the circumstances of the risk.

### Guiding Principles

At Mount Ridley P-12 College we actively encourage an inviting and open school. However, the safety of our students, staff and resources remain our highest priorities. In doing so, the College aims to:

- Provide a safe and secure environment for our students, staff guardians, community members and other visitors.

### Implementation

Our College 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
- Grounds Maintenance
- Child Safe Standards
- External Providers (including Registered Trade Organisations delivering VET/VCAL)
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Mandatory Reporting
- Occupational Health and Safety

Staff at our College 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 College 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 to members of our community suffering injury or damage because of the state of the premises.

College staff, parents, carers and students are encouraged to speak to the College Principal to raise any concerns about risks or hazards at our College, or our duty of care obligations.

**Evaluation**

As part of the College review cycle this policy will be reviewed every three years.

Date policy ratified: 19.3.2019

Date of next review: 2022