

DUTY OF CARE



Help for non-English speakers

If you require assistance with understanding this policy, please do not hesitate to contact the College and someone will organise a multicultural aide or the relevant person to assist you.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our College 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.

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

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
- Tree Maintenance
- Grounds Maintenance
- Student Private Property
- Child Safe Standards
- External Providers (including Registered Trade Organisations delivering VET)
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Mandatory Reporting
- Occupational Health and Safety

Our College 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.

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.

External Providers

Staff at our College acknowledge that, as our duty of care is non-delegable, we are also required to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm when external providers have been engaged to plan for or conduct an activity involving our students. Our *Visitors Policy* and *Camps and Excursions Policy* include information on the safety and care of our students when engaged with external providers.

Our College also takes steps to ensure student safety when they are engaging in off-site workplace learning programs with external providers, such as when students are participating in work experience, school-based apprenticeships and traineeships, structured workplace learning and any other workplace learning program involving external providers. Our College will follow all applicable Department of Education and Training policy and guidelines in relation to off-site learning and will ensure that the safety and welfare of the students engaging in these activities is paramount. The Department's guidelines in relation to Workplace Learning are available at the following link:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/structured-workplace-learning/policy>

COMMUNICATION

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

- Provided to staff at induction
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Made available publicly on our College's website
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Regularly referred to in our College's newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from College administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2028