



WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE

DUTY OF CARE POLICY

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Review by:

Author: Curriculum and Management Committee

WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING



WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE

GUIDING STATEMENT

Our Motto

Live worthily.

Our Vision

Werribee Secondary College is a leader in international education in the Victorian state education system. We implement the best quality educational practices evident throughout Australia and internationally.

The Werribee Secondary College community “lives worthily”. We are adaptable life-long learners, who are confident, creative and resilient individuals, empowered to shape the world in which we live.

Our Mission

At Werribee Secondary College we strive for success in students’ chosen endeavours.

The College community provides a safe and caring environment where each student is valued. We celebrate achievements, success and growth for all students. Our programmes equip students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for the dynamic world after secondary education.

College leaders, teachers and support staff adopt evidence-based best practice to generate a progressive 21st century educational setting. We enhance learning and develop digital literacy through the purposeful use of emerging technology. With a focus on realising optimal outcomes for learners, staff commit to continuous improvement through ongoing targeted professional development, peer collaboration and reflection.

At Werribee Secondary College we nurture the values of respect, cooperation, honesty, integrity, confidence, perseverance, resilience and responsibility. Driven by these ideals, the College community embraces cultural and social diversity. Students develop a strong sense of personal identity and global citizenship, enabling different cultural groups to interact, learn from each other and grow together.



DUTY OF CARE POLICY

PURPOSE

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

Werribee Secondary School 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 RTOS delivering VET/VCAL).
- Emergency Management.
- Volunteers.
- Visitors.
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks.
- Mandatory Reporting.
- 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. Werribee Secondary 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.

External Providers

Staff at our school 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 school 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 School 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://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/workplace.aspx>

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Duty of Care](#)
- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Workplace Learning](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 07/19 and is scheduled for review in 07/22