



DUTY OF CARE POLICY

AT COBRAM SECONDARY COLLEGE

The school of choice for the Cobram Community



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Cobram Secondary College, 5871 1700.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Cobram Secondary College believes every student deserves a safe and positive learning experience where they are engaged and supported to reach their full potential.

The College adheres to the principles of Australian democracy and takes into account the diversity of all children and makes reasonable efforts to accommodate them. This includes (but is not limited to) the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, children who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) individuals, and children who are vulnerable.

The College is committed to creating a child safe environment protecting children from all forms of abuse and neglect.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Cobram Secondary College 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.

Our school has developed policies and procedures to manage common risks in the school environment, including:

- Bullying Prevention

- Camps and Excursions
- First Aid
- Child Safe Standards
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations (including Mandatory Reporting)
- External Providers (including RTOS)
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Yard Duty & Supervision
- Working With Children and suitability checks
- Occupational Health & Safety

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.

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.

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

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Duty of Care](#)
- <https://www.cobramsc.vic.edu.au/policies>

COMMUNICATION

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

- Provided to staff at induction and included on the Staff Portal
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Made available publicly on our school website

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2026