



Duty of Care

Introduction

In addition to their professional obligations, principals, teachers and other employees of Sacred Heart Primary School have a legal duty to take steps to protect students in their charge from risks of injury that are reasonably foreseeable.

The School and its employees owe a 'duty of care' to students within their care as well as anyone else who may sustain injury, loss or damage as a result of the school's conduct, including but not limited to parents, student teachers, visitors or contract workers.

Scope

Duty of Care applies to all sites under the control of Sacred Heart Primary School and apply to all members of the Leadership Team, teaching & non-teaching staff members, casual relief teachers & contractors engaged by the school.

The School's Duty of Care

- * The school must take reasonable steps to protect students and staff members and anyone that attends the school site from foreseeable risks of injury. The broad requirements of the school to fulfil its 'duty of care' are to provide adequate supervision within the school or on school activities as well as providing safe and suitable buildings, grounds and equipment.

Teacher's Duty of Care

- * A teacher's 'duty of care' is not confined to the geographical area of the school, or to school activities, or to those that occur outside the school where a student is acting on a teacher's instructions. The duty also applies to situations both before and after school where students can be assumed to be under the teacher's care.

Teachers may fail in their 'Duty of Care' by:

- * Arriving late to scheduled timetabled yard duty responsibilities
 - * Failing to act appropriately to protect a student who claims to be bullied
 - * Believing that a child is being abused but failing to report the matter appropriately
 - * Being late to supervise the line up of students after the bell has sounded
 - * Leaving students unattended in the classroom
 - * Failing to instruct a student who is not wearing a hat to play in the shade
 - * Ignoring dangerous play
 - * Leaving the school during time release without approval
 - * Inadequate supervision on a school excursion
- * Staff members are also cautioned against giving advice on matters that they are not professionally competent to give (negligent advice). Advice is to be limited to areas within a



teacher's own professional competence and given in situations arising from a role (such as careers teacher, year level coordinator or subject teacher) specified for them by the principal.