St. Peter's PRIMARY SCHOOL

Life to the Full

St Peter's Primary North Bendigo
DUTY OF CARE STATEMENT

Vision

The vision for Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (**CES Limited**) is to provide, in partnership with our families, stimulating, enriching, liberating and nurturing learning environments in each of the Catholic school communities within the Diocese. At the heart of this vision is our commitment to the ongoing duty of care that we have for the safety, wellbeing, and inclusion of all children and young people.

We believe:

- that the values of the Gospel are central to who we are, what we do, and how we act
- in leadership encompassing vision, innovation and empowerment.

Purpose

Our school is a Sandhurst Catholic School which operates with the consent of the Bishop of Sandhurst and is owned and operated by Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CES Limited). This Policy forms part of the Duty of Care Framework which is available at Insert School Website.

Our school in partnership with parents, guardians and/or carers, who are the primary educators of their children, is entrusted with the holistic education of students in our school. Our school staff therefore have a duty of care to students to take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions that they can reasonably foresee would be likely to result in harm or injury to the student, and to work for the positive wellbeing of each child.

The school owes a duty to take reasonable care that any student (or other person) on the premises will not be injured or damaged because of the state of the premises, including things done or omitted to be done to the premises.

Indeed, the school has a duty of care to provide a safe and protected environment for all students and adults in the school environment on a daily basis or in casual association.

Principles

Our school will:

- protect students, staff members and those in the school environment from foreseeable risks of injury by providing safe and suitable buildings, grounds and equipment
- ensure adequate supervision of students at all times
- take necessary preventative measures so to ensure safety at all times
- ensure reasonable precautions to ensure that any person on the premises will not be injured or suffer loss or damage due to things that are done or omitted by the school
- recognise that greater measures of care may be required in relation to younger students, students with disabilities and possibly students from different ethnic orientations in order to fulfil duty of care obligations
- adhere to all requirements in relation to child safety from any form of negligence or abuse. Ensuring all staff are aware of their legal obligations in relation to Child Safety legislation and policies.

Scope

Duty of care applies to all sites under the control of the school and applies to all members of the leadership team, teaching and non-teaching staff members, casual relief teachers, those in religious ministry and parish staff,contractors engaged by the school and volunteers.

Principals and teachers are held to a high standard of care in relation to students. The duty requires the Principal and teachers of the school to take reasonable steps to minimise the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm from injury or child abuse to students by an individual associated with the school whilst the child is under the care, supervision or authority of the school.

Duty of Care Statement

Duty of care is a matter for the whole school.

Duty of care is non-delegable, meaning that it cannot be assigned to another party.

5.1 School Environment

The school's duty of care is a matter for all school environments and is not just confined to the geographical area of the school. It also applies to school activities that occur outside the school where students are acting on a staff member's instructions.

The school must take reasonable steps to protect students, staff members and anyone that attends the school site from foreseeable risks of injury.

The school must take reasonable precautions to ensure that any person on the premises will not be injured or suffer loss or damage due to things that are done or omitted by the organisation.

5.2 School Staff

Principals and teachers are held to a high standard of care in relation to students. The duty requires the Principal and teachers of the school to take reasonable steps to minimise the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm from injury or child abuse to students by an individual associated with the school whilst the child is under the care, supervision or authority of the school.

Whenever a teacher-student relationship exists, teachers have a special duty of care. Generally, teachers are expected to take such measures as are reasonable in the circumstances to protect a student under their charge from reasonably foreseeable risks of injury or child abuse.

The school and its teaching and non-teaching staff members owe a duty of care to students within their care, and, but not limited to, parents, student teachers, volunteers, visitors or contractors who may sustain injury, loss or damage as a result of our conduct.

The duty of care also applies to situations both before and after school where students can be assumed to be under the teacher's care.

Greater consideration must be given to the age and capacity of children in care with greater attention required for younger students or students with disabilities.

All members of staff at the school must adhere to all requirements in relation to child safety from any form of negligence or abuse. All staff must be aware of their legal obligations in relation to child safety legislation laws and policies. The school ensures that policies and codes of conduct regarding child safety are accessible and understood by all members of our school community.

Implementation

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

- Attendance monitoring
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- Child Safety Policies
- Codes of Conduct
- Communication of policies with the school community
- Emergency Management
- Employment and management of staff policies
- Health and First Aid Policies
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- Supervision of Students in the school environment.

The school will address its obligations for a duty of care by:

- providing and maintaining suitable and safe premises
- the provision of safe and secure learning environments
- ensuring adequate system of supervision of students
- implementing programs and strategies to prevent bullying
- ensuring that medical assistance is provided to a sick or injured student
- identifying and mitigating against the risk of child abuse
- monitoring school attendance.

Examples of school personnel failing in duty of care may include:

- arriving late to scheduled timetabled yard duty responsibilities
- leaving students unattended in the classroom
- using and operating damaged equipment or allowing others to do so
- failing to take appropriate action where hazards have been identified
- failing to adequately assess risks associated with activities
- failing to instruct students who are acting inappropriately
- ignoring dangerous play activities
- leaving the school during time release without approval
- providing inadequate supervision on a school excursion
- not acting on a reasonable belief that a child was subject to abuse by reporting to the relevant authorities
- inappropriate engagement and use of online environments.