

### **Vision**

Fitzroy High School values children as individual learners who are full of potential and capable of excellence. Our students will be lifelong learners, reflective and creative thinkers, responsible and active citizens, and resilient and adaptable problem solvers able to navigate through an uncertain and constantly changing future. Fitzroy is a learning community where students and teams of teachers work together to:

- Achieve high standards so that all students fulfil their capabilities in academic, intellectual, social, emotional and physical development
- Celebrate diversity and embrace individual differences, including class, culture, race, gender, sexuality and ethnicity
- Build a cohesive, compassionate and proud school community with a productive legacy for the future
- Develop beyond our current capacity through continuous change and review
- Participate in and contribute to our wider community.

### **Philosophy**

Fitzroy High embraces a bold and ambitious dream: striving for excellence and equity. We aim to be a humane learning community in which teachers use relationships to deepen their knowledge of students. This is in order to engage all of them in an intellectually challenging education based on powerful ideas, help them toward social maturity, and prepare them for a life of meaningful possibilities and active participation as Australian and global citizens.

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

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

- Duty of Care and Yard Supervision
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- Camps and Excursions
- First Aid
- Grounds Maintenance

- Tree Maintenance
- Personal Property
- Child Safe Standards
- External Providers (including RTOS delivering VET/VCAL)
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations
- Emergency Management Plan

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

## **COMMUNICATION**

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Available on Compass/School Documentation
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

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

**REVIEW CYCLE**

<b>Date Implemented</b>	December 2019
<b>Author/s</b>	Andrea Thompson
<b>Approved By</b>	FHS School Council
<b>Approval Authority</b> (Signature & Date)	
<b>Date Reviewed</b>	
<b>Responsible for Review</b>	Linda Mitchell
<b>Review Date</b>	December 2022
<b>References</b>	<a href="https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/dutyofcare.aspx">https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/dutyofcare.aspx</a>