



## **HUME CENTRAL SECONDARY COLLEGE**

### **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 Hume Central 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:

- Anaphylaxis Management Policy
- Assessment and Reporting Policy
- Attendance Implementation Guidelines
- Attendance Policy
- Bullying Prevention & Anti-Harassment Policy
- Child Safety Policy
- Child Safety Code of Conduct Policy
- Child Safety Responding & Reporting Obligations Policy & Procedures
- Concerns & Complaints Policy
- Critical Incident Policy
- Curriculum Framework Policy
- Digital Technologies Policy
- Enrolment Policy
- Excursion-Incursion Policy
- First Aid Policy & Procedures
- Health Care Needs Policy
- Homestay Policy – International Student Program
- Inclusion & Diversity Policy
- Medication Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy
- Privacy Policy & Privacy Collection Notice
- PSD Policy
- Respect for School Staff Policy
- Student Engagement & Wellbeing Policy
- Statement of Values & School Philosophy
- Student Satisfactory Completion Policy
- Suspension Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Volunteers Policy
- Yard Duty & Supervision Policy
- Health Wellbeing & Safety Policy and adherence to the OH&S management system governing providing a safe environment for all
- Working With Children Check

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 to members of our community suffering injury or damage because of the state of the premises.



School staff, parents, carers and students are encouraged to contact their Campus Reception 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>

### **COMMUNICATION**

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

- Discussed with staff at Induction
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Placed on Compass under School Documents
- Made available publicly on the school website
- Hard Copy available on request from a Campus Reception

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL): [Duty of Care](#)
- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL): [Structured Workplace Learning](#)
- <http://www.humecentralsc.vic.edu.au/vision-and-values/policies/>



#### **Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Hume Central Secondary College.

### **POLICY REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed as required or due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Date Reviewed	Scheduled Review	Consultation at College Council
March 2023	March 2026	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023