



NEWHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 Newham Primary 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:

- Yard duty and Supervision
- Bullying Prevention
- Camps and Excursions
- First Aid
- Child Safe Standards
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Mandatory Reporting

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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Provided to staff at induction and included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Made available publicly on our school website
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Duty of Care](#)
- Supporting School Policies can be located at - [NPS Policies](#)

REVISION HISTORY

Principal approval required.

DUTY OF CARE POLICY AND PROCEDURES					
Version	Date Created	Date Ratified at School Council (if required)	Revisions Made	Approved by	Next Policy Review
1	Unknown	Unknown	Creation of policy	Julie Souter	
2	July 2018	To be tabled (does not require School Council approval)	Use of new policy template and realigned with DET Guidelines.	Stuart Telford	As part of the school review process (every 3-4 years)
3	Feb 2019	25th March 2019	Developed in line with DET Guidelines. Policy refers to other applicable policies rather than having the detail repeated in this policy.	Stuart Telford	March 2023
4	April 2023		Additional text included under policy and included communication paragraph to align with DE policy.	Simone Wood (Principal)	April 2027