Mount Blowhard Primary School, 527 Millers Road, Blowhard, Victoria 3352
Phone 03 5334 6354 **Email** mount.blowhard.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Mount Blowhard 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 Mount Blowhard 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.

Mount Blowhard Primary School has developed policies and procedures to manage common risks in the school environment, including:

- Yard duty and Supervision
- Camps and Excursions
- First Aid
- Anaphylaxis Management
- Asthma Management
- Child Safe Standards
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Mandatory Reporting
- Occupational Health and Safety

Staff at Mount Blowhard Primary 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 Mount Blowhard Primary 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.

School Events

Mount Blowhard Primary School staff need to ensure risk assessments are documented for school events that take place on-site (e.g. Movie Night). Planning meetings need to occur in advance of the event (at least 3 weeks prior) so that risks can be identified and planned for. Risk assessments may also need the development of a traffic management plan. When planning school events, the principal needs to be make it clear to parents who the duty of care lies with for each event (e.g., Mount Blowhard Primary School staff or parents).

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: Duty of Care

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was endorsed by school council on February 16th 2023 and is scheduled for review in 2026. This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.