

DUTY OF CARE POLICY

Vision

To be a Catholic school community that recognises the uniqueness and diversity of every person, nurturing faith, wellbeing, and inclusivity while pursuing excellence.

Rationale

At St Martin's Catholic Primary School, we understand that the law imposes a legal duty on our school and school staff to take care of the safety and wellbeing of students and others in our care. This policy sets out the stance taken by the South Australian Commission for Catholic Education (SACCS) with regard to Duty of Care matters.

Aims

It is the policy of SACCS that:

- St Martin's Catholic Primary School owe a duty to take reasonable care to ensure that their acts or omissions do not cause reasonably foreseeable injury to students or others. The definition applicable is at least the standard of a reasonable and prudent parent but persons professing special skills must use these skills to the level which could reasonably be expected of a skilled person. The duty of care owed by education personnel is that of a 'reasonable professional';
- this duty applies during all activities and functions conducted or arranged by St Martin's Catholic Primary School and whenever a teacher-student relationship exists;
- this duty is non-delegable, meaning that it cannot be assigned to a third party;
- at St Martin's Catholic Primary School, the principal, leadership team, teachers and other staff take reasonable steps to reduce risk including the:
 - provision of safe and suitable premises
 - provision of an adequate system of supervision
 - implementation of policies, procedures and practices to ensure a child-safe environment
 - responsibility for ensuring one's own safety and that of others in the workplace
 - implementation of strategies to prevent bullying and harassment
 - provision of medical assistance to sick or injured students
 - identification and mitigation of risk.

Responsibility for Implementation, Monitoring and Continual Improvement

Responsibility for implementation, monitoring and review of the policy is enacted by the St Martin's Catholic School Principal and School Board.

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with, and is additional to, any other relevant South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS), school or CESA policy, procedure or support document. All staff are required to comply with the provisions of any such documents, including the following:

- Procedures for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect (2010)
- Excursions, Camps, Adventure, Physical and Sporting Activities: Procedures for Catholic Schools and Preschools (2020)
- Physical Education and Sport
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Policy
- C Shaw SA Procedures
- SACCS Duty of Care Procedures (2014)
- St Martin's Catholic Primary School 'Staff Handbook'

St Martin's Catholic Primary School Policies

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Excursions, Camps, Sport, Incursions and Outdoor Education Policy
- Sporting Code of Conduct Policy

Implemented: 2018
Ratified by School Board: 2018
Reviewed: 2023
Next review: 2026