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# Macleans College - POLICIES & DIRECTIVES

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SECTION NO: **1100**

POLICY NO: **1107**

ISSUE DATE: 03/05/99

TITLE: **SAFE SCHOOL POLICIES**

ISSUE NO: 1

PAGE: 1 OF 2

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## Loco Parentis

Loco Parentis is a common law doctrine which requires a teacher to exercise the same degree of care of the students in their charge as a sensible parent would. Teachers have legal and moral duty to see that students come to no harm. This implies safe supervision both while at school or on approved school activity.

### **PURPOSES:**

- 1 To provide guidance on the degree and relevance of supervision required.
- 2 To ensure that appropriate levels of supervision are provided.

### **GUIDELINES:**

- 1 Loco Parentis does not remove the rights of parent/caregiver to make decisions on behalf of the student to the teacher. At times teachers acting in loco parentis should advise parents/caregivers of their actions.
- 2 Teachers are required to display the characteristics of a caring and prudent parent/caregiver.
- 3 At all times the teacher's major concern shall be the welfare of the student(s).
- 4 Teachers are expected not to be reckless or negligent and able to show they acted after due consideration.
- 5 Parents should be notified immediately, preferably by the teacher involved, of any accident involving a student whether in school or on a school approved activity. It may be more appropriate for the school nurse "to do this, after consultation with the teacher, or in the case of serious injury notification should be by a member of the Senior Management Team. In all cases the Principal should also be advised by means of a written report as soon as is possible.
- 6 The Principal is required to ensure that adequate systems of supervision are in place whilst students are at school, or on activities away from the school. Staff have a legal duty to carry out this duty of care within accepted policies and practices.

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- 7 In an emergency a teacher may authorise medical/hospital treatment to a student under their care. The cost of this treatment shall be met by the parent/caregiver who must be advised of the situation as soon as possible. Approval for this action should be included on any permission slip for off-site school approved activities.