



SCHOOL CAMP POLICY

PURPOSE:

School camps provide a valuable experience through which curriculum areas may be developed and extended. Equally, it is an experience which offers students an environment highly congenial to the development of social interaction with their peers as well as self-reliance. This policy acknowledges school camps are an integral part of our school curriculum.

PROCEDURES:

- The camping program will be planned so that all eligible students can participate. At the discretion of the School Council and the Principal, financial aid may be given to economically disadvantaged families
- A 3 day/ 2 night camp will be organised for year 3/4 and 5/6 students each year
- Travel to campsites and beyond will be in buses fitted with seatbelts to ensure greater safety of our students. Increased costs incurred will be paid by parents
- School camps are required to be approved by School Council and notified to the DEECD
- Safety guidelines and evacuation procedures are an integral component of camp planning
- Staff in attendance will be First Aid trained
- An emergency vehicle driven by one of the supervising staff will be provided at campsites and mobile phones carried

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The camping program applies to students in years 3-6 and students in year 1/2 participate in a 'Fun Night'
- Planning should include sufficient notice to allow parents to address finance and calendar planning issues
- Some material resulting from the camp and the associated lessons will be suitable for publication and displayed to the school community

EVALUATION:

- Individual camping experiences should be evaluated in terms of:
 - applicability to the curriculum
 - availability of age appropriate activities
 - suitability of venue and associated costs
- Observation of students will allow teachers to report in terms of self-reliance, confidence, cooperation and team work

ROLE OF PARENTS:

- Parents need to accept the fundamental value that the school camp offers to their child's educational year, consequently parents should make every effort to consent to their child attending the school camp
- Parents have valid and up to date Working with Children Checks
- Parents must complete approved, individual camp medical and consent forms

- Parents may be offered the opportunity to attend as supervising staff. Parent selection procedure will begin the previous term. Selection may be based on: the skill set of the parent, eg First Aid trained, gender (eg number of male and female adults are in appropriate ratio to students attending), needs of individual children and the familiarity of parents with students.

This policy was ratified by School Council: **July 2014**

Next policy review: **2018**