



EXCURSION POLICY

Policy Statement

Excursions are seen as an integral part of the school curriculum as they enable students to explore, extend and enrich their learning and their social skills development, in a non-school setting. Excursions complement, and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at the school. An excursion is defined as any activity beyond the school grounds.

Rationale

- To reinforce, complement and extend the learning opportunities beyond the classroom
- To develop an understanding that learning is not limited to school, and that valuable and powerful learning takes place in the real world.
- To provide a safe, secure learning experience for students in a venue external to the school.
- To further develop social skills such as cooperation, tolerance, communication, individual and group interaction.
- To further develop problem solving and life survival skills.
- To extend understanding of their physical and cultural environment.

Implementation

- All excursions must be approved by the Principal or Assistant Principal.
- Staff wishing to organise an excursion must complete an excursion proposal form and lodge this for approval using Compass. All excursions require prior approval. Where an excursion proposal has not been submitted, that excursion will not run, unless special circumstances are pending. This decision will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principal. The Principal or Assistant Principal will consider the educational outcome of the excursion as well as the impact on the school for the proposed date.
- The Principal or Assistant Principal will ensure that all excursions, transport arrangements, emergency procedures and staffing comply with DET guidelines. Refer to: [DET Excursion Policy](#)
- Once the excursion has been approved all relevant documentation must be completed. This is available from the Principal or Assistant Principal. The Assistant Principal will complete the 'Notification of School Activity' at: www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp three weeks prior to the excursion departure date, and ensure relevant details are entered on the daily planner.
- School Council is responsible for the approval of:
 - Overnight excursions
 - Camps
 - Interstate visits
 - International visits
 - Excursions requiring sea or air travel, weekends or vacations
 - Adventure activities
- The Principal or Assistant Principal is responsible for the approval of all single-day excursions other than those that must be approved by school council as mentioned above.



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EXPECTATIONS

The Department's requirements and guidelines relating to preparation and safety will be observed in the conduct of all excursions.

The Principal or Assistant Principal will ensure that full records are maintained regarding the camp/excursion.

The Principal or Assistant Principal will ensure that adequate pre-excursion planning and preparation, including the preparation of students, takes place.

Satisfactory arrangements will be made to provide continuous instruction for the students remaining at the school during the absence of staff accompanying an excursion.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) will not be involved in any expense associated with the conduct of excursions. The school may choose to subsidise some excursions or some student's expenses.

Prior to conducting a camp or excursion, the approval of the School Council or the Principal will be obtained. Council must approve overnight or adventure activities. The Principal must approve these and other activities.

The emergency management process of the school will extend to and incorporate all camps and excursions.

All DET requirements and guidelines that apply to the conduct of excursions are also applicable to all overseas and interstate (domestic) camps/excursions.

PROGRAM

Prior to conducting a camp or excursion, the Department's requirements and guidelines relating to camps or excursions, will be rigorously observed.

Consideration in planning should include:

- [Safety, Emergency & Risk Management](#) , including Bushfires
- [Student Preparation](#)
- [Student Medical Information](#)
- [Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors](#)

The Principal or Assistant Principal will ensure that full records are submitted to School Council regarding the camp/excursion well in advance of the starting date of the event and that no camp/excursion occurs unless all the formal record keeping has been completed and approved.



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Prior to conducting any camp, the formal approval of the School Council and Principal will be obtained. In approving a camp or excursion, consideration will include:

- the contribution of the activity to the school curriculum
- the adequacy of the planning, preparation and organisation in relation to the school policy and the guidelines and advice provided by DET
- information provided by community groups and organisations that specialise in the activity proposed
- appropriateness of the venue
- the provisions made for the safety and welfare of students and staff
- the experience and competence of staff relevant to the activities being undertaken
- the adequacy of the student supervision
- the high risk nature of some activities
- emergency procedures and safety measures
- staff-student ratios
- student experience
- where parents are assisting they have a current working with children card

Students not attending a camp or excursion will be placed in another class and have an appropriate learning program provided by the class teacher. Prior to the camp or excursion parent/carers are to be made aware that DET does not provide student accident cover and that they need to make their own arrangements for cover.

Arrangements for payments

- All efforts will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend an excursion, are invited to discuss alternative arrangements with the Principal and/or Assistant Principal. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made in consultation with the appropriate staff, on an individual basis.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for excursions. Parents will be provided with permission forms and excursion information clearly stating payment finalisation dates. Children whose payment have not been finalised at least 24 hours prior to the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organised with the Assistant Principal
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide organising teachers with detailed records on a regular basis.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- A designated "Teacher in Charge" will coordinate each excursion.
- The Teacher in Charge must provide the Office with a final student list that outlines a bus list so that a copy is both at school and with the teacher in charge and on each bus
- In the case where an excursion involves a particular class or year level group, the organising teacher will ensure that there is an alternative program available for those students not attending the excursion.
- Consent and payment must be provided by the set due date to be able to attend the excursion.
- The school will provide a first aid kit for each excursion. The teacher in charge is responsible for collecting these prior to leaving and ensuring that the anaphylaxis, diabetes and first aid policies are adhered to.
- The teacher in charge will communicate the anticipated return time with the general office in the case where excursions are returning out of school hours. Parents will be informed prior to students leaving for the excursion, that they can phone the office to receive an updated anticipated return time.
- Parents may be invited to assist in the delivery of excursions providing they hold a current Working with Children's card.



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- Parents assisting with any excursion are not permitted to bring along any extra children.
- Disciplinary measures apply to students on camps and excursions consistent with the School's Well Being and Restorative Practices policy.

The school's emergency procedures do include the effects of an emergency on student supervision in the event of excursion staff being required to assist injured students or to go for help.

All excursion staff and, where appropriate, the students will be familiar with the specific procedures for dealing with emergencies on each excursion.

On days of extreme fire danger or total fire ban, the Principal or Assistant Principal may need to cancel an excursion at short notice. Where an excursion is not cancelled, special fire safety precautions will be implemented. In any event Risk Assessment documentation must be completed prior to approval.

Excursion groups will be equipped with mobile telephones and first aid kits to be used in emergency situations.

LINKS AND APPENDICES (including processes related to this policy)

The Key Links which are connected with this policy are sourced through: [DET Excursion Policy](#)

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of cyclic review or if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances