

CAMPING POLICY**RATIONALE**

The camping policy is based on the belief that through guided experiences away from the usual settings of home and school, individuals are able to learn about themselves and others. They develop a deeper awareness of the natural environment and Australian identity, history and heritage. These experiences can assist in developing self-reliance, cooperation, self-esteem and a close bond between students and teachers. As such, the camping program is an important element in the education program of the school.

PURPOSE

Personal development

1. To involve students in challenging activities that call for decisions, action and reflection on the consequences, both for themselves and others.
2. To provide an opportunity for students to develop social skills, friendships and tolerance in a more informal environment.

Educational development

3. To acquire knowledge, values and skills that promote an understanding of, respect for, and responsible use of the natural environment.
4. To build students' understanding of our history and how we are governed.

Social development

5. To foster self-esteem through co-operative play and responsible behaviour.
6. To develop a sense of belonging to a group through shared experiences and group problem solving activities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The camps are undertaken in a spirit of fun, adventure and cooperation.
2. Camps are held within the natural environment and/or in places of historical and national significance.
3. Students from Year 3 to 6 will have the opportunity to participate in a school camp annually.
4. Every attempt will be made to include all children in the camping program.
5. The camping program includes a range of outdoor education activities within different environments.
6. Both physical and psychological safety is paramount and students are not compelled to undertake challenging activities if they feel unsafe.
7. All camps must be approved by School Council.
8. A Risk Management Report must be completed before seeking approval from School Council.
9. Camps must be registered with the department via the Student Activity Locator at least 3 weeks before commencement of the camp.
10. There must be a ratio of 1 adult for every 10 children attending camp.
11. A vehicle must be available at the camp.

To be read in conjunction with DEECD Safety Guidelines for Education
Outdoors

www.education.vic.gov.au/management/schooloperations/eduoutdoors

REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed in 2016