

Camps and Excursions

POLICY – TAWONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rationale:

Camps and Excursions enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a non-school setting. They may have a cultural, environmental or outdoor emphasis and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

Aims:

- To provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- To reinforce and extend classroom learnings.
- To provide programs that deliver skills and knowledge that may lead to lifelong involvement in worthwhile leisure pursuits.
- To provide programs that promote self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, judgement, cooperation and tolerance.

Implementation:

- The designated *Teacher in Charge* will ensure that all camps/excursions comply with Department guidelines.
- Camps and adventure activities require School Council approval. Day excursions require the principal's permission.
- For overnight and adventure activities, the *Notification of School Activity* form must be completed online three weeks prior to departure.
- Parents are required to provide written permission, as well as ensuring that the *Confidential Medical Information* is current.
- School Council should consider subsidising camps and excursions.
- All families are expected to pay for camps and excursions before departure. Families having financial difficulties should discuss the matter with the principal at the earliest convenience to make alternative arrangements.
- Children may be encouraged to fundraise to defray costs.
- All excursions beyond the local area and all camps will be staffed with a current, qualified first aid person.
- Appropriate first aid equipment and mobile phone must be taken on each excursion.
- All children on medication or with known medical conditions need to be identified and appropriate medication / equipment be supplied by the parent.
- Medications should be given to the nominated first aider.
- Parents selected to assist with the camps program will be required to undertake a Working With Children check and sign the schools Code of Conduct.
- Selection of parents to attend camps and excursions will be determined by the Principal after expressions of interest have been sought. A decision will be made based on the skills required to complement the type of camp. Eg gender, first aid. (see volunteer policy).
- Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be allowed to participate in camps and excursions. Parents may be requested to collect their child from camp if their child exhibits behaviour that is considered unsafe or unacceptable.
- Where possible annual camps should be arranged as follows: the junior school a sleepover, the middle school a three day/two night camp at a venue in the local district and the upper school a city/beach/adventure camp of three to five days duration.
- Where possible we will combine year 3-6 camps with other schools to provide more opportunities for socialisation.
- Yr 3-6 students are strongly encouraged to participate in the downhill and cross country ski program.
- Yr 5/6 bi-ennial Somers Camp/ Yr 4/5 Woorabinda Camp – If more students apply for places than are available, students names will be drawn out of a hat by a school councillor in the presence of teacher and student representatives.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

May 2017