

POLICY

Camps, Incursions, Excursions and Aquatics

Rationale:

The school's excursion, incursion, camping and aquatics program enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a school and non-school setting. Day and overnight excursions complement, and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

Aims:

- To reinforce, complement and extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom
- To develop an understanding that learning is not limited to school and teachers, and that valuable and powerful learning is often achieved with other people and experiences.

Implementation:

- Day excursions are defined for the purpose of this policy as any organised and supervised school activities that require children to venture beyond the school boundary.
- An incursion is an activity that involves school visitors who provide a performance, lesson or service for students.
- A Camp is defined as any activity involving at least one night's accommodation, including sleep overs at school.
- The school will implement any aquatics program in line with DET and will comply with DET requirements, recommendations and regulations.
- The principal is responsible for the approval of all non-adventure single-day excursions other than those that must be approved by the School Council.
- School Council is responsible for approval of all overnight excursions; camps; interstate and overseas visits; excursions requiring sea or air travel; excursions involving weekends or vacations; and adventure activities.
- The School only uses residential campsites accredited by the 'Australian Camps Association' or the 'National Accommodation, Recreation and Tourism Accreditation Program' (NARTA) for overnight Camps.
- School Council requires that students only travel on buses fitted with seatbelts.
- School Council requires that a report be tabled after each School Camp, detailing feedback regarding the event, in particular any mishaps or areas for future improvement.
- School Council will ensure that all school Camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, and comply with all Department of Education and Training requirements.
- A sick or unwell student should not be permitted to participate within a program until fully recovered. The Principal reserves the right to make an assessment and decision on this on a case by case basis.
- Students with prevailing medical needs or exhibiting extreme challenging behavior may be considered inappropriate for incursions, excursions, camp and aquatics programs. This will be assessed on a case by case nature. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the Teacher in Charge.
- The primary references that must be consulted when considering all day excursions is the Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide 4.4.2.2 – Student Safety & Risk Management
- If the school had conducted a camp or excursion in a bushfire prone area during fire danger period (note: the CFA declares the Fire Danger Period for each shire or council at different times in the lead up to fire season), the school can produce a record of risk management planning that includes consideration of the risk of bushfire.

Excursion Policy

- All staff must ensure that all required documentation and checks are completed in line with other relevant policies and procedures. Procedures for these individual policies must be updated on a yearly basis.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy will be evaluated as part of a 3 -year cycle of policy review

This policy was approved by School Council on 19th November 2019 and is scheduled for review in November 2022

Version: Final

Review Date: November 2022

'Sunshine SDS is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices heard about decisions that affect their lives'.

