



Excursions

Rationale

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

Aims

- 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

An excursion is defined as any activity beyond the school grounds.

- 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
- A designated 'Teacher in Charge' will coordinate each excursion and will ensure that adequate pre-excursion planning and preparation, including risk management and the preparation of students, takes place.
- All excursions must be approved by the Principal or nominee(s). Staff wishing to organize an excursion must complete an excursion proposal form and lodge it for approval.
- The designated Teacher in Charge of each excursion will ensure that all excursions, transport arrangements, teacher/pupil ratios and excursion activities comply with DET guidelines.
- Excursion planning should commence well in advance and

- Once approved all relevant documentation must be completed. The online DET 'Notification of School Activity' proforma will be completed as required at: www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp, three weeks prior to the excursion departure date and all relevant details are entered on the daily news feed.
- The principal or nominee will ensure that full records are maintained regarding the camp/excursion.
- 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.
- Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in camps or excursions. [Students and their parents/carers need to be made aware that acceptable standards of behaviour will be expected during a camp or an excursion.](#)
- 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 their nominee 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.

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

Students not attending a camp or excursion will attend school and 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 Business Manager. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Business Manager 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 finalization dates. Children whose payment have not been finalized at least 24 hours prior to the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organized with the Business Manager.
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide organizing 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 General Office with a final student list as well as posting a copy Compass and daily news feed and a copy of excursion details to be provided to the school office.
- In the case where an excursion involves a particular class or year level group, the organizing teacher will ensure that there is an alternative program available for those students not attending the excursion.
- All students must have returned a signed permission note and payment to be able to attend the excursion. Copies of completed permission notes and medical information must be carried by excursion staff at all times.
- The school will provide a first aid kit for each excursion. The teacher in charge is responsible for collecting these prior to leaving.
- 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.
- For students in Years 11 and 12 or VCE classes, it is expected that the teacher in charge will consult with other staff before planning to minimise the impact on other classes.
- Parents may be invited to assist in the delivery of excursions. When deciding on which parents will attend, the Teacher in Charge will take into account:

- Any valuable skills the parents have to offer, eg. bus licence, first aid, etc.
- The need to include both male and female parents.
- The special needs of particular students.
- Excursion costs and overall supervision issues.
- Parents selected to assist with an excursion must have a 'Working with Children' check and may be required to pay costs associated with the excursion.
- Only students that have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be permitted to participate in school excursions. Parents will be notified if their child is in danger of losing the privilege to participate in an excursion due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, Assistant Principal, in consultation with the organizing teacher. Both the parent and the student will be informed of this decision prior to the excursion.
- Disciplinary measures apply to students on camps and excursions consistent with the School's Well Being and Restorative Practices policy. In extreme cases the camp or excursion staff, following consultation with, and the approval of, the principal or their nominee, may determine that a student should return home during a camp or excursion.

In such circumstances, the parent/carer will be advised:

- of the circumstance associated with the decision to send the student home
- of the time when the parents/carers may collect their child from the camp or excursion
- of the anticipated time that the student will arrive home
- of any costs associated with the student's return which will be the responsibility of the parents/carers

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 their nominee 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. See Appendix E.**

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

Links connected with this policy are:

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

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/excursions.aspx#mainContent>

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstance.

Author:	
Ratified By: UYSC School Council	
Name: President	Signature: Date: / /2017
Date Implemented:	
Date Updated On-Line:	
Review Date: June 2020	Responsible for Review: Principal
References: DEECD Excursion Policy	